

A  
L E T T E R  
FROM THE  
T O W N O F B O S T O N ,  
T O  
C. L U C A S, Esq;  
ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN  
IN PARLIAMENT:

INCLOSING A SHORT  
N A R R A T I V E  
O F T H E  
M A S S A C R E  
P E R P E T R A T E D T H E R E ,

In the Evening of the Fifth Day of MARCH, 1770,

B Y  
S O L D I E R S of the XXIXth REGIMENT,  
Q U A R T E R E D I N T H E T O W N :

W I T H S O M E  
O B S E R V A T I O N S  
O N T H E  
S T A T E O F T H I N G S  
P R I O R T O T H A T  
C A T A S T R O P H E .

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A N D  
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1883, Dec. 22.  
Cooke bequest.



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*At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of BOSTON, duly qualified and legally warned, in public Town-Meeting assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Thursday the 22d Day of March, 1770.*

V O T E D,

**T**HAT the Hon. *James Bowdoin, Esq;* Doctor *Joseph Warren,* and *Samuel Pemberton, Esq;* a Committee appointed on the 12th Instant, to make Representation of the late horrid Massacre in *Boston* by the Soldiery, be desired to transmit, by the Packet, to Doctor *Lucas,* a patriotic Member of the House of Commons in Ireland, a printed copy of such Representation.

Attest. WILLIAM COOPER, *Town Clerk.*

To Doctor C. L U C A S,

Member of the House of Commons in IRELAND.

BOSTON, *New-England,* March 23d, 1770.

S I R,

**I**T is in Consequence of an Appointment of the Town of *Boston,* that we have the Honor of writing to you, and of communicating the inclosed Narrative relative to the Massacre in this Town on the 5th Instant.

After that execrable Deed, perpetrated by Soldiers of the 29th Regiment, the Town thought it highly expedient, that a full and just Representation of it should be made to Persons of Character as soon as may be, in order to frustrate the Designs of certain Men, who, as they have heretofore been plotting the Ruin of our Constitution and Liberties, by their Letters, Memorials, and Representations, are now said to have procured Depositions in a private Manner, relative to the said Massacre, to bring an Odium upon the Town as the Aggressors in that Affair. But we humbly apprehend that, after examining

aming the said Narrative, and the Depositions annexed to it, you will be fully satisfied of the Falsehood of such a Suggestion: And we take upon ourselves to declare, upon our Honor and Consciences, that having examined critically into the Matter, there does not appear the least Ground for it,

The Depositions referred to (if any such there be) were taken without notifying the select Men of the Town, or any other Persons whatever, to be present at the Caption, in Behalf of the Town; which, as it has been a Thing justly complained of heretofore in some other Cases, so the Town now renew their Complaints on the same head; and humbly presume such Depositions will have no Weight till the Town has been served with Copies of them, and an Opportunity given them to be heard in their Defence of this Matter, and in any other, wherein their Character is drawn into Question with a view of passing a Censure upon it.

A different Conduct was observed on the Part of the Town: The Justices, with a Committee to assist them, made their Examinations publicly; most of them at Faneuil-Hall, and the Rest where any Persons might attend. Notifications were sent to the Custom-house, where the Commissioners of the Customs sit, that they, or any Persons in their behalf, might be present at the Captions; and accordingly Mr. *Sheaffe*, the Deputy-Collector, and Mr. *Green*, Tenant of the Custom-house under the Commissioners, and employed by them, were present at many of them.

One of the said Commissioners, Mr. *Robinson*, in a secret Manner, has embarked on board Captain *Robson*, and sailed for *London* the 16th Instant, which, with three of the other Commissioners retiring from the Town, and not having held a Board for some Time since the 5th Instant, gives Reason to apprehend they have planned, and are executing, a Scheme of Misrepresentation, to induce Administration to think, that their Persons are not in Safety in this Town in the Absence of Troops. But their Safety is no way dependent on Troops, for you are sensible, Sir, that if any evil had ever been intended them, Troops could not have prevented it.

It was so apparently incompatible with the Safety of the Town for the Troops to continue any longer in it, that his Majesty's Council were unanimous in their Advice to the Lieutenant-Governor, that they should be removed to

the Barracks at Castle Island. And it is the humble and fervent Prayer of the Town, and the Province in general, that his Majesty will graciously be pleased, in his great Wisdom and Goodness, to order the said Troops out of the Province; and that his dutiful and loyal Subjects of this Town and Province — dutiful and loyal, notwithstanding any Representations to the contrary — may not again be distressed and destroyed by Troops; for preventing which, we beg Leave, in Behalf of the Town, to request most earnestly the Favour of your Interposition and Influence. — We have the Honor to be, with the most perfect Regard,

S I R,

Your most obedient,

And very humble Servants,

JAMES BOWDOIN,  
S. PEMBERTON,  
JOSEPH WARREN.

Boston,



BOSTON, ff. *At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duly qualified and legally warned, in public Town-Meeting assembled at Faneuil-Hall, on Monday the 12th Day of March, Anno Domini, 1770.*

**T**HAT Article in the Warrant for calling this Meeting, viz. "What Steps may be further necessary for obtaining a particular Account of all Proceedings relative to the Massacre in *King-street* on *Monday Night* last, that a full and just Representation may be made thereof," was read, whereupon,

### V O T E D,

That the Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq; Doctor *Joseph Warren*, and *Samuel Pemberton*, Esq; be a Committee for this important Business; and they are desired to report as soon as may be.

Attest WILLIAM COOPER, *Town-Clerk.*

**T**HE following Report, containing a Narrative of the late Massacre, is submitted to the Town.

In the Name of the Committee,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

*At the Town-Meeting held on the 19th of March, 1770, by Adjournment.*

**T**HE aforementioned Report was read and considered, whereupon *Voted Unanimously*, That the same be accepted, and that it be immediately printed; and the Committee are desired to transmit Copies thereof as soon as possible to the following Gentlemen, viz. The Right Hon. *Isaac Barré*, Esq; one of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council; *Thomas Pownall*, Esq; late Governor of the Massachusetts; *William Bolla*, Esq; Agent for his Majesty's Council; *Dennys De Berdt*, Esq; Agent for the House of Representatives; *Benjamin Franklin*, Esq; L.L.D. and *Barlow Trecothick*, Esq; a Member of Parliament for the City of London.

Attest. WILLIAM COOPER, *Town-Clerk.*



*A Short Narrative of the horrid Massacre in Boston, perpetrated in the Evening of the Fifth Day of March, 1770, by Soldiers of the XXIXth Regiment; which, with the XIVth Regiment, were then quartered there. With some Observations on the State of Things prior to that Catastrophe.*

**I**T may be a proper introduction to this narrative, briefly to represent the state of things for some time previous to the said massacre: And this seems necessary in order to the forming a just idea of the causes of it.

At the end of the late war, in which this Province bore so distinguished a part, a happy union subsisted between Great-Britain and the Colonies. This was unfortunately interrupted by the Stamp-Act, but it was in some measure restored by the Repeal of it. It was again interrupted by other Acts of parliament for taxing America; and by the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, in pursuance of an act, which, by the face of it, was made for the relief and encouragement of commerce, but which, in its operation, it was apprehended, would have, and it has in fact had, a contrary effect. By the said act the said Commissioners were “to be resident in some convenient part of his Majesty’s dominions in America”.—This must be understood to be in some part convenient for the whole.—But it does not appear, that in fixing the place of their residence, the convenience of the whole was at all consulted; for Boston being very far from the center of the colonies, could not be the place most convenient for the whole.—Judging by the act, it may seem this town was intended to be favoured, by the Commissioners being appointed to reside here; and that the consequence of that residence, would be the relief and encouragement of commerce; but the reverse has been the constant and uniform effect of it; So that the commerce of the town, from the embarrassments in which it has been lately involved, is greatly reduced. For the particulars on this head, see the state of the trade not long since drawn up and transmitted to England by a committee of the merchants of Boston.

The residence of the Commissioners here, has been detrimental not only to the commerce, but to the political interests of the town and province; and not only so, but we

we can trace from it the causes of the late horrid massacre. Soon after their arrival here in November, 1767, instead of confining themselves to the proper business of their office, they became partisans of Governor Bernard in his political schemes; and had the weakness and temerity to infringe upon one of the most essential rights of the house of commons of this province—that of giving their votes with freedom, and not being accountable there-for but to their constituents. One of the members of that house, Capt. Timothy Folger, having voted in some affair contrary to the mind of the said Commissioners, was for so doing dismissed from the office he held under them.

These proceedings of theirs, the difficulty of access to them on office-business, and a supercilious behaviour, rendered them disgustful to people in general, who in consequence thereof treated them with neglect. This probably stimulated them to resent it: and to make their resentment felt, they and their coadjutor Governor Bernard, made such representations to his Majesty's ministers as they thought best calculated to bring the displeasure of the nation upon the town and province: and in order that those representations might have the more weight, they are said to have contrived, and executed plans for exciting disturbances and tumults, which otherwise would probably never have existed; and when excited, to have transmitted to the ministry the most exaggerated accounts of them.

These particulars of their conduct his Majesty's Council of this province have fully laid open in their proceeding in council, and in their address to General Gage, in July and October, 1768; and in their letter to Lord Hillsborough of the 15th of April, 1769.—Unfortunately for us, they have been too successful in their said representations, which in conjunction with Governor Bernard's, have occasioned his Majesty's faithful subjects of this town and province to be treated as enemies and rebels, by an invasion of the town by sea and land: to which the approaches were made with all the circumspection, usual where a vigorous opposition is expected. While the town was surrounded by a considerable number of his Majesty's ships of war, two regiments landed and took possession of it; and to support these, two other regiments arrived some time after from Ireland: one of which landed at Castle Island, and the other in the town.

Thus

Thus were we, in aggravation of our other embarrassments, embarrassed with troops, forced upon us contrary to our inclination,—contrary to the spirit of Magna Charta,—contrary to the very letter of the Bill of Rights, in which it is declared, that the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with the consent of parliament, is against law—and without the desire of the civil magistrates, to aid whom was the pretence for sending the troops hither: who were quartered in the town in direct violation of an act of parliament for quartering troops in America: and all this in consequence of the representations of the said Commissioners and the said Governor, as appears by their memorials and letters lately published.

As they were the procuring cause of troops being sent hither, they must therefore be the remote and a blameable cause of all the disturbances and bloodshed that have taken place in consequence of that Measure.

But we shall leave them to their own reflections, after observing, that as they had some months before the arrival of the troops, under pretence of safety to their persons, retired from town to the Castle, so after the arrival of the troops, and their being quartered in the town, they thought proper to return: having answered, as they doubtless thought, the purpose of their voluntary flight.

We shall next attend to the conduct of the troops, and to some circumstances relative to them.—Governor Bernard without consulting the Council, having given up the State-house to the troops at their landing, they took possession of the chambers, where the representatives of the province and the courts of law held their meetings; and (except the council-chamber) of all other parts of that house: in which they continued a considerable time, to the great annoyance of those courts while they sat, and of the merchants and gentlemen of the town, who had always made the lower floor of it their exchange. They had a right so to do, as the property of it was in the town: but they were deprived of that right by meer power.—The said Governor soon after, by every stratagem and by every method, but a forcible entry, endeavoured to get possession of the manufactory-house, to make a barrack of it for the troops: and for that purpose caused it to be besieged by the troops, and the people in it to be used very cruelly; which extraordinary proceedings created universal uneasiness, arising from the apprehension, that



that the troops under the influence of such a man would be employed to effect the most dangerous purposes; but failing of that, other houses were procured, in which, contrary to act of parliament, he caused the troops to be quartered. After their quarters were settled, the main guard was posted at one of the said houses, directly opposite to, and not twelve yards from, the State-house, (where the General Court, and all the Law Courts for the County were held) with two field pieces pointed to the State-house. This situation of the main guard and field pieces seemed to indicate an attack upon the constitution, and a defiance of law; and to be intended to affront the legislative and executive authority of the province.

The General Court, at the first Session after the arrival of the troops, viewed it in this light, and applied to Governor Bernard to cause such a nuisance to be removed; but to no purpose. Disgusted at such an indignity, and at the appearance of being under duress, they refused to do business in such circumstances; and in consequence thereof were adjourned to Cambridge, to the great inconvenience of the members.

Besides this, the challenging the inhabitants by centinels posted in all parts of the town before the lodgings of officers, which (for about six months, while it lasted) occasioned many quarrels and great uneasiness.—

Capt. Wilson's, of the 59th, exciting the negroes of the town to take away their masters lives and property, and repair to the army for protection, which was fully proved against him.—The attack of a party of soldiers on some of the magistrates of the town—the repeated rescues of soldiers from peace officers—the firing of a loaded musket in a public street, to the endangering a great number of peaceable inhabitants—the frequent wounding of persons by their bayonets and cutlasses, and the numerous instances of bad behaviour in the soldiery, made us early sensible, that the troops were not sent here for any benefit to the town or province, and that we had no good to expect from such conservators of the peace\*.

It

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\* The inhabitants, instead of making application to the military officers on these occasions, chose rather to oppose the civil authority and the laws of the land to such offenders; and had not the soldiery found means to evade legal punishments, it is more than probable their insolence would have received a check, and some of the most melancholy effects of it been prevented.



It was not expected however, that such an outrage and massacre, as happened here on the evening of the 5th instant, would have been perpetrated. There were then killed and wounded, by a discharge of musquetry, eleven of his Majesty's subjects, viz.

Mr. Samuel Gray, killed on the spot by a ball entering his head.

Crispus Attucks, a molatto, killed on the spot, two balls entering his breast.

Mr. James Caldwell, killed on the spot, by two balls entering his back.

Mr. Samuel Maverick, a youth of seventeen years of age, mortally wounded: he died the next morning.

Mr. Patrick Carr mortally wounded: he died the 14th instant.

Christopher Monk and John Clark, youths about seventeen years of age, dangerously wounded. It is apprehended they will die.

Mr. Edward Payne, merchant, standing at his door: wounded.

Messrs. John Green, Robert Patterson and David Parker: all dangerously wounded.

The actors in this dreadful tragedy were a party of soldiers commanded by Capt. Preston of the 29th regiment: This party, including the Captain, consisted of eight, who are all committed to gaol.

There are depositions in this affair which mention, that several guns were fired at the same time from the Custom-house; before which this shocking scene was exhibited. Into this matter inquisition is now making.—In the mean time it may be proper to insert here the substance of some of those depositions.

Benjamin Frizell, on the evening of the 5th of March, having taken his station near the west corner of the Custom-house in King-street, before and at the time of the soldiers firing their guns, declares (among other things) that the first discharge was only of one gun, the next of two guns, upon which, he the deponent thinks, he saw a man stumble: the third discharge was of three guns, upon which he thinks he saw two men fall, and immediately after were discharged five guns, two of which were by soldiers on his right hand, *the other three, as appeared to the deponent, were discharged from the balcony, or the chamber window of the Custom-house, the flashes appearing on the left hand, and higher than the right hand flashes appeared to be,*

be, and of which the deponent was very sensible, altho' his eyes were much turned to the soldiers, who were all on his right hand.

Gillam Bais, being in King-street at the same time, declares that they (the party of soldiers from the main guard) posted themselves between the Custom-house door, and the west corner of it; and in a few minutes began to fire upon the people: *Two or three of the flashes so high above the rest, that he the deponent verily believes they must have come from the Custom-house windows.*

Jeremiah Allen declares, that in the evening of the 5th day of March current, being at about nine o'clock in the front chamber in the house occupied by Col. Ingersoll in King-street, he heard some guns fired, which occasioned his going into the balcony of the said house.—That when he was in the said balcony in company with Mr. William Molineux, junior, and John Simpson, he heard the discharge of four or five guns, the flashes of which appeared to be to the westward of the centry-box, and immediately after, he the deponent *heard two or three more guns, and saw the flashes thereof from out of the house, now called the Custom-house, as they evidently appeared to him, and which he the said deponent at the same time declared to the afore-said Molineux and Simpson being then near him, saying to them, (at the same time pointing his hand towards the Custom-house) there they are out of the Custom-house.*

George Cobster being in King-street at the time above-mentioned, declares that in five or six minutes after he stopped, he heard the word of command given to the soldiers *fire*, upon which one gun was fired, which did no execution, as the deponent observed; about half a minute after two guns, one of which killed one Samuel Gray a rope-maker, the other a molatto man, between which two men the deponent stood; after this the deponent heard the discharge of four or five guns more, by the soldiers; immediately after which *the deponent heard the discharge of two guns or pistols, from an open window of the middle story of the Custom-house, near to the place where the centry-box is placed, and being but a small distance from the window, he heard the people from within speak and laugh, and soon after saw the casement lowered down; after which the deponent assisted others in carrying off one of the corps.*

Cato, a negro man, servant to Tuthill Hubbard, Esq; declares, that on Monday evening the 5th of March current,

rent, on hearing the cry of fire, he ran into King-street, where he saw a number of people assembled before the Custom-house, that he stood near the centry-box and saw the soldiers fire on the people, who stood in the middle of said street; directly after which *he saw two flashes of guns, one quick upon the other, from the chamber window of the Custom-house*; and that after the firing was all over, while the people were carrying away the dead and wounded, *he saw the Custom-house door opened, and several soldiers (one of whom had a Cutlafs) go into the Custom-house and shut the door after them.*

Benjamin Andrews declares, that being desired by the committee of enquiry to take the ranges of the holes made by musquet balls, in two houses near opposite to the Custom-house, he finds the bullet hole in the entry door post of Mr. Payne's house (and which grazed the edge of the door, before it entered the post, where it lodged, two and a half inches deep) *ranges just under the stool of the westernmost lower chamber window of the Custom-house.*

Samuel Drowne, towards the end of his deposition (which contains a pretty full account of the proceedings of the soldiers on the evening of the 5th instant) declares, that *he saw the flashes of two guns fired from the Custom-house, one of which was out of a window of the chamber westward of the balcony, and the other from the balcony; the gun (which he clearly discerned) being pointed through the ballisters, and the person who held the gun, in a stooping posture withdrew himself into the house, having a handkerchief or some kind of cloth over his face.*

These depositions shew clearly, that a number of guns were fired from the Custom-house.—As this affair is now enquiring into, all the notice we shall take of it is, that it distinguishes the actors in it into Street-Actors and House-Actors; which is necessary to be observed.

What gave occasion to the melancholy event of that evening seems to have been this. A difference having happened near Mr. Gray's rope-walk, between a soldier and a man belonging to it, the soldier challenged the rope-makers to a boxing match. The challenge was accepted by one of them, and the soldier worsted. He ran to the barrack in the neighbourhood, and returned with several of his companions. The fray was renewed, and the soldiers were driven off. They soon returned with recruits, and were again worsted. This happened several times, till at length a considerable body of soldiers was



collected, and they also were driven off, the rope-makers having been joined by their brethren of the contiguous rope-walks. By this time Mr. Grey being alarmed, interposed, and, with the assistance of some gentlemen, prevented any further disturbance. To satisfy the soldiers, and punish the man who had been the occasion of the first difference, and as an example to the rest, he turned him out of his service, and waited on Col. Dalrymple, the commanding officer of the troops, and with him concerted measures for preventing further mischief. Though this affair ended thus, it made a strong impression on the minds of the soldiers in general, who thought the honor of the regiment concerned to revenge those repeated repulses. For this purpose they seem to have formed a combination to commit some outrage upon the inhabitants of the town indiscriminately; and this was to be done on the evening of the 5th instant, or soon after, as appears by the depositions of the following persons, viz.

William Newhall declares, that on Thursday night, the first of March instant, he met four soldiers of the 29th regiment, and that he heard them say, "There were a great many that would eat their dinners on Monday next, that should not eat their dinners on Tuesday."

Daniel Calf declares, that on Saturday evening, the 3d of March, a camp-woman, wife to James McDeed, a grenadier of the 29th, came into his father's shop, and the people talked about the affrays at the rope-walks, and blaming the soldiers for the part they had acted in it, the woman said the soldiers were in the right, adding, "that before Tuesday or Wednesday night they would wet their swords or bayonets in New-England people's blood."

Mary Brailsford declares, that on Sabbath evening, the 4th March instant, a soldier came to the house of Mr. Amos Thayer, where she then was; he desiring to speak with Mr. Thayer, was told by Mrs. Mary Thayer, that her brother was engaged, and could not be spoke with. He said, your brother, as you call him, is a man I have a great regard for, and I came on purpose to tell him to keep in his house, for "before Tuesday next at twelve o'clock, there will be a great deal of bloodshed, and a great many lives lost;" and added, that he came out of a particular regard to her brother to advise him to keep in his house, for then he would be out of harm's way. He said your brother knows me very well; my name is Charles Malone. He then went away.—Of the same import,  
and



and in confirmation of this declaration, are the depositions of Mary Thayer and Afa Copeland, who both live with the said Mary Thayer, and heard what the soldier said, as abovementioned. It is also confirmed by the deposition of Nicholas Ferriter.

Jane Usher declares, that about nine o'clock on Monday morning, the 5th of March current, from a window she saw two persons in the habit of soldiers, one of whom being on horse back appeared to be an officer's servant. The person on the horse first spoke to the other, but what he said, she is not able to say, though the window was open, and she not more than twenty feet distant: the other replied, *He hoped he should see blood enough spilt before Morning.*

Matthew Adams declares, that on Monday evening, the 5th of March instant, between the hours of seven and eight o'clock, he went to the house of corporal Pershall of the 29th regiment, near Quaker-lane, where he saw the corporal and his wife, with one of the fifers of said regiment. When he had got what he went for, and was coming away, the corporal called him back, and desired him, with great earnestness, to go home to his master's house as soon as business was over, and not be abroad on any account that night in particular, for *the soldiers were determined to be revenged on the rope-walk people; and that much mischief would be done.* Upon which the fifer (about 18 or 19 years of age) said, *he hoped in God they would burn the town down.* On this he left the house, and the said corporal called after him again, and begged he would mind what he said to him.

Caleb Swan declares, that on Monday night, the 5th of March instant, at the time of the bells ringing for fire, he heard a woman's voice whom he knew to be the supposed wife of one Montgomery, a grenadier of the 29th regiment, standing at her door, and heard her say, *it was not fire, the town was too haughty and too proud; and that many of their arses would be laid low before the morning.*

Margaret Swansborough declares, that a free woman named Black Peg, who has kept much with the soldiers, on hearing the disturbance on Monday evening, the 5th instant, said *the soldiers were not to be trod upon by the inhabitants, but would know before morning, whether they or the inhabitants were to be masters.*

Joseph Hooton, jun. declares, that coming from the South-end of Boston on Monday evening, the 5th of

March, instant, against Dr. Sewall's meeting, he heard a great noise and tumult, with the cry of murder often repeated. Proceeding towards the town-house he was passed by several soldiers running that way with naked cutlasses and bayonets in their hands. He asked one of them what was the matter, and was answered by him, by God you will all know what is the matter soon. Between 9 and 10 o'clock he went into King-street, and was present at the tragical scene exhibited near the Custom-house, as particularly set forth in his deposition.

Mrs. Mary Russell declares, that John Brailsford, a private soldier of the *fourteenth* regiment, who had frequently been employed by her (when he was ordered with his company to the Castle, in consequence of the murders committed by the soldiers on the evening of the 5th of March) coming to the deponent's house declared, that *THEIR regiment were ORDERED to hold themselves in readiness, and accordingly was ready THAT EVENING, upon the inhabitants firing on t e soldiary, to come to the assistance of the soldiery.* On which she asked him, if he would have fired upon any of the inhabitants of this town.

To which he replied, Yes, if he had orders; but that if he saw Mr. Russell he would have fired wide of him. He also said, *it's well there was no gun fired by the inhabitants, for had there been, WE should have come to the soldiers assistance.*

By the foregoing depositions it appears very clearly, there was a general combination among the soldiers of the 29th regiment at least, to commit some extraordinary act of violence upon the town; that if the inhabitants attempted to repel it by firing even one gun upon those soldiers, the 14th regiment were ordered to be in readiness to assist them; and that on the late butchery in King-street they actually were ready for that purpose, had a single gun been fired on the perpetrators of it.

It appears, by a variety of depositions, that, on the the same evening between the hours of six and half after nine (at which time the firing began) many persons, without the least provocation, were, in various parts of the town, insulted and abused by parties of armed soldiers patrolling the streets: particularly——

Mr. Robert Pierpont declares, that between the hours of seven and eight in the same evening, three armed soldiers passing him, one of them who had a bayonet gave him a back-handed stroke with it, on complaint of this

treatment, he said the deponent should soon hear more of it, and threatened him very hard.

Mr. Henry Bais declares, that at nine o'clock a party of soldiers came out of draper's-alley leading to and from Murray's barracks, and they being armed with large naked cutlasses, made at every body coming in their way, cutting and flashing; and that he himself very narrowly escaped receiving a cut from the foremost of them, who pursued him.

Samuel Atwood declares, that ten or twelve soldiers armed with cutlasses, bolted out of the alley leading from Murray's barracks into Dock-square, and met the deponent, who asked them if they intended to murder people? they answered, Yes, by God, root and branch; saying here is one of them; with that one of them struck the deponent with a club, which was repeated by another: the deponent being unarmed turned to go off, and he received a wound on the left shoulder which reached the bone, disabled him, and gave him much pain. Having gone a few steps the deponent met *two officers*, and asked them, Gentlemen, what is the matter? *they answered, you will see by and by*; and as he passed by Col. Jackson's he heard the cry, turn out the guards.

Captain James Kirkwood, declares, that about nine of the clock in the evening of the fifth day of March current, he was going by Murray's barracks; hearing a noise he stop at Mr. Rhoads's door, opposite the said barracks, where said Rhoads was standing, and stood some time and saw the soldiers coming out of the yard from the barracks armed with cutlasses and bayonets, and rushing through Boylstone's-alley into Cornhill, two officers, viz. Lieuts. Minchin and Dickson came out of the Mess-house, and said to the soldiers, my lads come into the barrack, and don't hurt the inhabitants, and then retired into the mess-house. Soon after they came to the door again, and found the soldiers in the yard; and directly upon it, Ensign Mall came to the gate of the barrack yard and said to the soldiers, *turn out, and I will stand by you*; this he repeated frequently, adding, *kill them, stick them; knock them down, run your bayonets through them*, with a great deal of language of like import. Upon which a great number of soldiers came out of the barracks with naked cutlasses, *headed by said Mall*, and went through the aforesaid alley, that some officers came and got the soldiers into their barracks, and that *Mall with his sword or cutlass drawn*



drove into their barracks by the said Minchin and Dickson.

Mr. Henry Rhoads's declaration agrees with Captain Kirkwood's.

Mr. Matthias King of Halifax in Nova Scotia, declares, that in the evening of the fifth day of March instant, about nine of the clock, he was at his lodgings at Mrs. Torrey's near the town pump, and heard the bells ring, and the cry of fire; upon which he went to the door and saw several soldiers come round the south side of the town-house armed with bayonets, and something which he took to be broad swords; that one of those people came up almost to him and Mr. Bartholomew Kneeland; and that they had but just time to shut the door upon him; otherwise he is well assured they must have fell victims to their boundless cruelty. He afterwards went into the upper chamber of the said house, and was looking out of the window *when the drum and the guard went to the barrack*, and he saw one of the guards kneel and present his piece with a bayonet fixed, and heard him swear he would fire upon a parcel of boys who were then in the street, but he did not: He further declares, that *when the body of the troops was drawn up before the guard house (which was presently after the massacre) he heard an officer say to another, that this was fine work, and just what he wanted*; but in the hurry he could not see him, so as to know him again.

Robert Polley declares, that on Monday evening, the 5th instant, as he was going home, he observed about ten persons standing near Mr. Taylor's door, after standing there a small space of time, he went with them towards Boylston's-alley, opposite to Murray's barracks; we met in the alley about eight or nine armed soldiers, they assaulted us, and gave us a great deal of abusive language, we then drove them back to the barracks with sticks only; we looked for stones or bricks, but could find none, the ground being covered with snow; some of the lads dispersed, and he, the said Polley, with a few others, were returning peaceably home, when we met about nine or ten other soldiers armed; one of them said, "Where are the sons of bitches?" They struck at several persons in the street, and went towards the head of the alley. Two officers came and endeavoured to get them into their barracks; one of the lads proposed to ring the bell; the soldiers went through the alley, and huzza'd, and said they were gone through the Royal Exchange Lane into King-



Samuel Drowne declares, that about nine of the clock of the evening of the fifth of March current, standing at his own door in Cornhill, he saw about fourteen or fifteen soldiers of the 29th regiment, who came from Murray's barracks armed with naked culasses, swords, &c. and came upon the inhabitants of the town, then standing or walking in Cornhill, and abused some, and violently assaulted others as they met them; most of whom were without so much as a stick in their hand to defend themselves, as he very clearly could discern, it being moon light, and himself being one of the assaulted persons. All or most of the said soldiers he saw go into King-street, (some of them through Royal Exchange Lane) and there followed them, and soon discovered them to be quarrelling and fighting with the people whom they saw there, which he thinks were not more than a dozen when the soldiers came there first, armed as aforesaid. Of those dozen people the most of them were gentlemen, standing together a little below the Town-house upon the Exchange. At the appearance of those soldiers so armed, the most of the twelve perfoes went off, some of them being first assaulted.

The violent proceedings of this party, and their going into King-street, "quarrelling and fighting with the people whom they saw there" (mentioned in Mr. Drowne's deposition) was immediately introductory to the grand catastrophe.

These assailants, who issued from Murray's barracks (so called) after attacking and wounding divers persons in Cornhill, as above-mentioned, being armed, proceeded, most of them, up the Royal Exchange Lane into King-street, where making a short stop, and after assaulting and driving away the few they met there, they brandished their arms, and cried out, Where are the Boogers; where are the Cowards? At this time there were very few persons in the street besides themselves.—This party, in proceeding from Exchange-lane into King-street, must pass the centry posted at the westerly corner of the Custom-House, which butts on that lane and fronts on the street. This is needful to be mentioned, as near that spot, and in that street the bloody tragedy was acted, and the street actors in it were stationed: This station being but a few feet from the front side of the said Custom-house.—The outrageous behaviour, and the threats of the said party occasioned the ringing of the Meet-

ing-house bell near the head of King-street; which bell ringing quick as for fire, it presently brought out a number of the inhabitants, who being soon sensible of the occasion of it, were naturally led to King-street, where the said party had made a stop but a little while before; and where their stopping had drawn together a number of boys round the centry at the Custom-house. Whether the boys mistook the centry for one of the said party, and thence took occasion to differ with him, or whether he first affronted them, which is affirmed in several depositions—however that may be, there was much foul language between them, and of them, in consequence of his pushing at them with his bayonet, threw snow-balls at him,\* which occasioned him to knock hastily at the door of the Custom-house. From hence two persons thereupon proceeded immediately to the main guard, which was posted (opposite to the State-house) at a small distance near the head of the said street. The officer on guard was Capt. Preston, who, with seven or eight soldiers with fire arms, and charged bayonets, issued from the guard-house, and in great haste posted himself and his soldiers in the front of the Custom-house, near the corner aforesaid. In passing to this station the soldiers pushed several persons with their bayonets, driving through

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\* Since writing this narrative, several depositions have appeared, which make it clear that the centry was first in fault.— He overheard a barber's boy saying, that a Captain of the 14th (who had just passed by) was so mean a fellow as not to pay his barber for shaving; upon this the centry left his post, and followed the boy into the middle of the street, where he told him to shew his face; the boy pertly replied, I am not ashamed to shew my face to any man; upon this the centry gave him a sweeping stroke on the head with his musket, which made him reel and stagger, and cry much. A fellow-apprentice asked the centry what he meant by this abuse? He replied, damn your blood, if you do not get out of the way I will give you something, and then fixed his bayonet and pushed at the lads, who both ran out of his way. This dispute collected a few persons about the boys near the Custom-house. Presently after this, the party above-mentioned came into King-street, which was a further occasion of drawing people thither, as above related. See deposition of Benjamin Broaders and others.)

through the people in so rough a manner, that it appeared they intended to create a disturbance. This occasioned some snow-balls to be thrown at them, which seems to have been the only provocation that was given. Mr. Knox (between whom and Capt. Preston there was some conversation on the spot) declares, that while he was talking with Capt. Preston, the soldiers of his detachment had attacked the people with their bayonets; and that there was not the least provocation given to Capt. Preston or his party: the backs of the people being towards them when the people were attacked. He also declares, that Capt. Preston seemed to be in great haste and much agitated; and that, according to his opinion, there were not then present in King-street above seventeen or eighteen persons at the extent.

The said party was formed into a half circle, and, within a short time after they had been posted at the Custom-house, began to fire at the people.

Capt. Preston is said to have ordered them to fire, and to have repeated that order. One gun was fired first; then others in succession, and with deliberation, till ten or a dozen guns were fired; or till that number of discharges were made from the guns that were fired. By which means eleven persons were killed and wounded, as above represented.

These facts, with divers circumstances attending them, are supported by the depositions of a considerable number of persons, and among others are the following, viz. Messrs. Henry Bass, Samuel Atwood, Samuel Drowne, James Kirkwood, Robert Polley, Samuel Condon, Daniel Usher, Josiah Simpson, Henry Knox, Gillam Bass, John Hickling, Richard Palmes, Benjamin Frizzel, and others, whose depositions are in the appendix.

Soon after the firing, a drum, with a party from the main guard, went to Murray's and the other barracks beating an alarm as they went, which, with the firing, had the effect of a signal for action. Whereupon all the soldiers of the 29th regiment, or the main body of them, appeared in King-street under arms; and seemed bent on a further massacre of the inhabitants, which was with great difficulty prevented. They were drawn up between the State-house and main guard; their lines extended across the street, and facing down King-street, where the town-people were assembled. The first line kneeled, and the whole of the first platoon presented their guns ready  
to



to fire, as soon as the word should be given. They continued in that posture a considerable time. But by the good Providence of God, they were restrained from firing.

That they then went into King-street with such a disposition, will appear probable by the two following depositions.

Mrs. Mary Gardner, living in Atkinson-street, declares, that on Monday evening the 5th of March current, and before the guns fired in King-street, there were a number of soldiers assembled from Green's barracks towards the street, and opposite to her gate; that they stood very still until the guns were fired in King-street, then they clapped their hands and gave a cheer, saying, *this is all that we want*. They ran to their barrack, and came out again in a few minutes, all with their arms, and ran towards King-street.

William Fallais declares, that (after the murder in King-street) on the evening of the 5th instant, upon his return home he had occasion to stop opposite to the lane leading to Green's barracks, and while he stood there, the soldiers rushed by him with their arms, towards King-street, saying, *this is our time or chance*: and that he never saw men or dogs so greedy for their prey as those soldiers seemed to be, and the serjeants could hardly keep them in their ranks.

These circumstances with those already mentioned, amount to a clear proof of a combination among them to commit some outrage upon the town on that evening; and that after the enormous one committed in King-street, they intended to add to the horrors of that night, by making a further slaughter.

At the time Capt. Preston's party issued from the main guard, there were in King-street about two hundred persons, and those were collected there by the ringing of the bell, in consequence of the violences of another party, that had been there a very little while before. When Captain Preston had got to the Custom-house, so great a part of the people dispersed at sight of the soldiers, that not more than twenty or thirty then remained in King-street, as Mr. Drowne declares \*, and at the time of firing not seventy, as Mr. Palmes thinks †.

But

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\* † See his Deposition.

But after the firing, and when the slaughter was known, which occasioned the ringing of all the bells of the town, a large body of the inhabitants soon assembled in King-street, and continued there the whole time the 29th regiment was there under arms, and would not retire till that regiment, and all the soldiers that appeared, were ordered, and actually went, to their barracks: after which, having been assured by the Lieutenant Governor, and a number of the civil magistrates present, that every legal step should be taken to bring the criminals to justice, they gradually dispersed. For some time the appearance of things was dismal. The soldiers outrageous on the one hand, and the inhabitants justly incensed against them on the other: both parties seeming disposed to come to action. In this case the consequences would have been terrible: but by the interposition of his Honor, some of his Majesty's council, a number of civil magistrates, and other gentlemen of weight and influence, who all endeavoured to calm and pacify the people, and by the two principal officers interposing their authority with regard to the soldiers, there was happily no further bloodshed ensued; and by two o'clock the town was restored to a tolerable state of quiet. About that time, Capt. Preston, and a few hours after, the party that had fired, were committed to safe custody.

One happy effect has arisen from this melancholly affair, and it is the general voice of the town and province it may be a lasting one.—All the troops are removed from the town. They are quartered for the present in the barracks at Castle-Island; from whence it is hoped they will have a speedy order to remove entirely out of the province, together with those persons who were the occasion of their coming hither.

In what manner this was effected, it is not foreign from the subject of this Narrative to relate.

The morning after the massacre, a town meeting was held; at which attended a very great number of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town. They were deeply impressed and affected by the tragedy of the preceding night, and were unanimously of opinion, it was incompatible with their safety that the troops should remain any longer in the town. In consequence thereof they chose a committee of fifteen gentlemen to wait upon his Honor the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to request  
of

of him to issue his orders for the immediate removal of the troops.

The message was in these words :

“ That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the inhabitants and soldiery can no longer live together in safety ; that nothing can rationally be expected to restore the peace of the town, and prevent further blood and carnage, but the immediate removal of the troops ; and that we therefore most fervently pray his Hon r, that his power and influence may be exerted for their instant removal.”

His Honor's reply, which was laid before the town then adjourned to the old south meeting-house, was as follows :

“ Gentlemen,

“ I am extremely sorry for the unhappy differences between the inhabitants and troops, and especially for the action of the last evening ; and I have exerted myself upon that occasion, that a due enquiry may be made, and that the law may have its course. I have in council consulted with the commanding officers of the two regiments who are in the town. They have their orders from the General at New York. It is not in my power to countermand those orders. The Council have desired that the two regiments may be removed to the Castle. From the particular concern which the 29th regiment has had in your differences, Col. Dalrymple, who is the commanding officer of the troops, has signified that that regiment shall without delay be placed in the barracks at the Castle, until he can send to the General and receive his further orders concerning both the regiments, and that the main-guard shall be removed, and the 14th regiment so disposed, and laid under such restraint, that all occasion of future disturbances may be prevented.”

The foregoing reply having been read and fully considered—the question was put, Whether the report be satisfactory? Passed in the Negative, *only ONE dissentient* out of upwards of 4000 voters.

A respectable committee was then appointed to wait on his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and inform him, “ That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that the reply made to a vote of the inhabitants presented his Honor in the morning, is by no means satisfactory ; and that nothing less will satisfy, than a total and immediate removal of all the troops.”



The committee having waited upon the Lieutenant Governor, agreeable to the foregoing vote, laid before the inhabitants the following vote of Council received from his Honor.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor laid before the Board a vote of the town of Boston, passed this afternoon, and then addressed the Board as follows :

“ Gentlemen of the Council,

“ I lay before you a vote of the town of Boston, which I have just now received from them, and I now ask your advice what you judge necessary to be done upon it.”

The Council thereupon expressed themselves to be unanimously of opinion, “ that it was absolutely necessary for his Majesty’s service, the good order of the town, and the peace of the rovince, that the troops should be immediately removed out of the town of Boston, and thereupon advised his Honor to communicate this advice of the Council to Col. Dalrymple, and to pray that he would order the troops down to Castle-William.”

The committee also informed the town, that Col. Dalrymple, after having seen the vote of Council, said to the committee :

“ That he now gave his word of honor that he would begin his preparations in the morning, and that there should be no unnecessary delay until the whole of the two regiments were removed to the Castle.”

Upon the above report being read, the inhabitants could not avoid expressing the high satisfaction it afforded them.

After measures were taken for the security of the town in the night by a strong military watch, the meeting was dissolved.

**I**N the concluding Paragraph of the foregoing Narrative it is said, that the Town-Meeting was dissolved after the measures were taken for the security of the Town in the night, by a strong military watch.

Our implacable enemies, in pursuance of their plan of misrepresentation, have taken pains to misrepresent this most necessary measure, by declaring it to have been contrary to the mind of the Commander in Chief, and against Law.

This matter will be judged of, by stating the fact, and producing the Law.

When the Committee, who had waited on the Lieutenant Governor, had reported to the Town, that the Troops would be removed to Castle-Island, (at which time it was near night) it was thought necessary for the safety of the Town, and for preventing a rescue of the persons committed to goal for firing upon, and killing a number of his Majesty's subjects, that there should be a military watch; and divers Gentlemen were desired to take the needful steps for that purpose. It being then night, it was impossible a regular notification should issue from the officers of the militia: a considerable number of respectable persons therefore offered themselves volunteers, and did the duty of a military watch under the direction of the Lieutenant-Colonel, who attended that service with the approbation of the chief Colonel of the Boston regiment. The next day, with two of the Select-men of the Town, the chief Colonel went to the Lieutenant-Governor, and they informed him it was apprehended absolutely necessary for the safety of the Town, there should be a military watch kept; and that the Colonel then waited upon him to receive his orders. The Lieutenant Governor declined giving any orders concerning it, but said the Law was clear, that the Colonel, as chief officer of the regiment, might order a military watch; and that he might do about it as he thought fit. In consequence of this, and knowing the Law gave him such a power, the Colonel issued his orders for that purpose, and a regular watch was kept the following night. The next day the Lieutenant Governor sent for the Colonel, and let him know, that he was in doubt about the legality of the appointment of the military watch: and recommended to the Colonel to take good advice, whether he had a right by Law to order such a watch.

This being quiet unexpected, occasioned the Colonel to express himself with some fervor. He also said, he had already taken advice, and had no doubt of his own power; but had the preceeding day waited upon his Honor as Commander in Chief to receive his orders: which as his Honor had declined giving, and left the matter with himself, he had appointed a military watch: and judged it a necessary measure to quiet the fears and apprehensions of the town. The interview ended with the Lieutenant Governor's

nor's recommending again, that the Colonel would take care to proceed according to law; and without his forbidding a military watch.

This military watch was continued every night, till Col. Dalrymple had caused the two Regiments under his command to be removed to the barracks at Castle-Island. During the continuance of the watch, the Justices of the Peace in their turns attended every night : and the utmost order and regularity took place thro' the whole of it.

This is the state of the fact, upon which every one is left to make his own observations.

Now for the Law : with respect to which nothing more is necessary than just to recite it. It runs thus, " That there be military watches appointed and kept in every town, at such times, in such places, and in such numbers, and under such regulation, as the chief military officers of each town shall appoint, or as they may receive orders from the chief officer of the regiment."\*—This needs no comment.. It clearly authorizes the chief officer of the regiment to appoint military watches. The late military watch in Boston being founded on such an appointment was therefore according to Law.

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\* See a Law of the Province for regulating the Militia, made in the 5th year of William and Mary, Chap. 7. Sect. 10.



# A P P E N D I X

Containing the principal Depositions referred to in the preceeding NARRATIVE, entire; and also the substance of other Depositions relative to the Subject of it.

(No. 1.)

**J**OHAN WILME, testifies that about ten days before the late massacre, Christopher Rumbly of the 14th regiment was at his house, and said if there *should be any interruption, that the grenadiers company was to march up King-street*; and that he had been in many a battle; and that he did not know *but he might be soon in one here*; and that if he was, he would level his piece so as not to miss; *and that the blood would soon run in the streets of Boston*; and that one Sumner of the same regiment did say that he came here to make his fortune; and that he would *as soon fight for one King as another*; and that they would *soon sweep the streets of Boston*.

And that he heard a soldier's wife, Eleanor Park say, that if there should be any disturbance in the town of Boston, and any of the people were wounded, she would take a stone in her handkerchief and beat their brains out, *and plunder the rebels*.

Suffolk, ff. *Boston March 21, 1770. John Wilme above-named, after due examination, made oath to the Truth of the afore-said Affidavit, taken to perpetuate the remembrance of the Thing.*

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 2.)

SARAH WILME, testifies that Christopher Rumbly, and Sumner spoke the words alledged in Affidavit No. 1.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN TUDOR, Just. Peace.

(No. 3.)

**I** DAVID COCKRAN, testify that I went to the house of Mr. John Wilme about ten days before the late massacre, and there I found 4 or 5 soldiers, and after some time the said *Wilme told me not to be out in the night of such a day* (though I cannot positively say what day) whereupon I asked him what he meant, and *he told me that there would be disturbances, or words to that effect*; and that one of said soldiers took me by the arm, and *said the blood would soon run in the streets of Boston*.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

No. 4.

(No. 4.)

WILLIAM NEWHALL, testifies and says, that on Thursday night, the first of March instant, between the market and Justice Quincey's he met four soldiers of the 29th regiment, all unarm'd, and that he heard them say, *there was a great many that would eat their dinners on Monday next, that should not eat any on Tuesday.*

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 5.)

I NICHOLAS FERITER, of lawful age testify, that on Friday the second instant, about half after 11 o'clock, A. M. a soldier of the 29th regiment came to Mr. John Gray's ropewalks, and looking into one of the windows said, *By God I'll have satisfaction!* with many other oaths; at the last he said he was not afraid of any one in the ropewalks. I stepped out of the window and speedily knock'd up his heels. On falling his coat flew open, and a naked sword appeared, which one John Wilson following me out took from him, and brought it into the ropewalks. The soldier then went to Green's barrack, and in about twenty minutes return'd with 8 or 9 more soldiers armed with clubs, and began as I was told with three or four men in Mr. Gray's warehouse, asking them why they had abused the soldier aforesaid? These men in the warehouse passed the word down the walk for the hands to come up, which they did, and soon beat them off. In a few minutes the soldiers appeared again at the same place, reinforced to the number of 30 or 40, *armed with clubs and cutlasses*, and headed by a tall negro drummer with a cutlass chained to his body, with which at first rencounter I received a cut on the head, but being immediately supported by nine or ten more of the ropemakers, armed with their wouldring sticks, we again beat them off. And further I say not.

NICHOLAS FERITER.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 6.)

I JEFFREY RICHARDSON, of lawful age, testify and say, that on Friday the second instant, about eleven o'clock, A. M. eight or ten soldiers of the 29th regiment, armed with clubs, came to Mr. John Gray's rope-walks, and *challenged all the ropemakers to come out and fight them.*---All the hands then present to the number of 13 or 14, turn'd out with their wouldring sticks, and beat them off directly. They very speedily returned to the ropewalk, reinforced to the number of thirty and forty, and headed by a tall negro drummer, again challenged them out, which the same hands accepting, again beat them off with considerable bruises. And further I say not.

JEFFREY RICHARDSON.

Before, RICHARD DANA and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 7.)

JOHN FISHER, testifies that on the second day of March, between eleven and twelve o'clock, A. M. he saw about six soldiers going towards Mr. John Gray's rope-walk, with some clubs; they had not been there long, before they returned quicker than they went and retreated into their barracks, and bro't out the light infantry company, with many others, and went against the rope-makers again; but were soon beat off as far as Green's-lane, the soldiers following and chasing many persons they could see in the lane with their clubs, and endeavouring to strike them, when a corporal came and ordered them into the barracks.—And further saith that on Saturday the third instant, he saw the soldiers making clubs; and by what he could understand from their conversation, *they were determined to have satisfaction by Monday.*

Before R1: DANA, and SAM. PEMBERTON, Just. Peace.

(No. 8.)

I JOHN HILL, testify, that in the forenoon of Friday the second of March current, I was at the house the corner of a passage way leading from Atkinson's-street to Mr. John Gray's rope-walks, near Green's barracks, when I saw eight or ten soldiers pass the window with clubs. I immediately went to the door, and found them returning from the rope-walks to the barracks. Whence they again very speedily re-appeared, now increased to the number of thirty or forty, armed with clubs and other weapons. In this latter company was a tall negro drummer, to whom I called, you black rascal, what have you so do with white people's quarrels? He answered, I suppose I may look on, and went forward. *I went out directly and commanded the peace, telling them I was in commission; but they not regarding me, knock'd down a rope-maker in my presence, and two or three of them beating him with clubs, I endeavoured to relieve him; but on approaching the fellows who were mauling him, one of them with a great club struck at me with such violence, that had I not happily avoided it might have been fatal to me.* The party last mentioned rushed in towards the rope-walks, and attacked the rope-makers nigh the tar-kettle, but were soon beat off, drove out of the passage-way by which they entered, and were followed by the rope-makers, whom I persuaded to go back, and they readily obeyed. And further I say not.

JOHN HILL.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN RUDDOCK, Just. Peace.

(No. 9.)

I JOHN GRAY, of lawful age, testify and say, that on the Saturday preceding the massacre on the Monday evening of the 5th instant, Middleton the chimney-sweeper being at my house, said to my maid, as she informed me, that he was well acquainted with the soldiers, and they had determined to have their revenge of the rope-walk people; being alarmed with this news, I deter-



mined to see Col. Dalrymple on Monday morning. At sabbath noon I was surpriz'd at hearing that Col. Carr. and his officers had entered my rope-walk, open'd the windows, doors, &c. giving out that they were searching for a dead serjeant of their regiment ; this put me upon immediate waiting upon Col. Dalrymple, to whom I related what I understood had passed at the rope-walk days before, he replied it was much the same as he had heard from his people ; but says he, " your man was the aggressor in affronting one of my people, by asking him if he wanted to work, and then telling him to clean his little-house." For this expression I dismissed my journeyman on the Monday morning following ; and further said, I would do all in my power to prevent my people's giving them any affront in future. He then assur'd me, he had, and should do every thing in his power to keep his soldiers in order, to prevent their any more entering my inclosure. Presently after, Col. Carr came in, and asked Col. Dalrymple what they should do, for they were daily losing their men ; that three of his grenadiers passing quietly by the rope-walks were greatly abus'd, and one of them so much beat that he would die. He then said that he had been searching for a serjeant who had been murder'd ; upon which, I said, Yes Colonel, I hear you have been searching for him in my rope-walks ; and asked him, whether that serjeant had been in the affray there on the Friday ; he replied, no : for he was seen on the Saturday. I then asked him, how he could think of looking for him in my walks ; and that had he apply'd to me, I would have waited on him, and opened every apartment I had for his satisfaction. JOHN GRAY.

Before R1 : DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 10.)

ARCHIBALD Mc. NEIL, jun. of lawful age, testifies and says, that on Saturday the third instant, about half an hour after four in the afternoon, the deponent with two apprentices were spinning at the lower end of Mr. Mc. Neil's rope-walk, three stout grenadiers, armed with bludgeons, came to them, and addressing the deponent said, *You damn'd dogs don't you deserve to be kill'd ? Are you fit to die ?* The deponent and company being quite unarmed gave no answer. James Bayley, a seafaring young man, coming up, said to the deponent, &c. Why did you not answer ? One of the grenadiers, named Dixson, hearing him, came up to Bayley and asked him if he was minded to vindicate the cause ? Bayley also unarmed did not answer till James Young came up, who, tho' equally naked, said to the grenadier, Damn it, I know what a soldier is. That grenadier stood still, and the other who had threatened the deponent came up and struck at him, which Young fended off with his arms, and then turning aimed a blow at the deponent, which had it reached might probably have been fatal. Patrick ———, Mr. Winter Calef's journeyman, seeing the affray, went into the tan-house, and

bringing out two batts gave one to a bystander, who together with Patrick soon cleared the walk of them, and further saith not.

Before R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 11.)

MARY THAYER testifies that on the Sabbath day evening, the 4th current, a soldier of the 29th named Charles Malone, came into Mr. Amos Thayer's house, brother to the deponent, and sent a young lad belonging to Mr. Thayer up stairs to his master, desiring him to come down to him. Mr. Thayer refused to come down or have any thing to say to him. The deponent going down on other occasion, said she would hear what the soldier had to say. And coming to the soldier told him her brother was engaged. The soldier said, *your brother as you call him is a man I have a very great regard for, and came here to desire him to keep in the house and not be out, for there would be a great deal of disturbance and blood between that time and Tuesday night at 12 o'clock.* He repeatedly said he had a greater regard for Mr. Thayer than any one in Boston, and on that account came to desire him to keep in the house, which if he did there would be no danger. After repeating the above frequently, he even turned at the door, and said my name is Charles Malone, your brother knows me well, and insisted very earnestly that the deponent would not neglect informing her brother, and further saith not. MARY THAYER.

Before R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 12.)

MARY BRAILSFORD testifies the same as Mary Thayer. Before, R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 13.)

ASA COPELAND testifies the same as Mary Thayer. Before, R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL. Just. Peace.

(No. 14.)

I JOHN BRAILSFORD testify, that on Monday evening the 5th instant, I asked a soldier named *Swan* of the 29th regiment, what was the reason of their people's going about armed with clubs in such a manner, and troubling the town's people. *Swan* told me *you will see, you had better go home*, and more to the same purpose. When the guns were fired I returned back and asked *Swan* what that could mean; *Swan* waving his head, said it's the guards, there is no shot there: *You had better go home*, and by all his behaviour and discourse he manifested his full acquaintance with the whole affair, and further saith not. JOHN BRAILSFORD.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 15.)

NATHANIEL NOYES testifies and says, that on last Sabbath evening, the 4th day of March current, a little after dark, he saw

five or six soldiers of the 14th and 29th regiments, each of them with clubs, passing thro' Fore-street, and heard them say, that if they saw any of the inhabitants of this town out in the street after nine o'clock, *they swore by God, they would knock them down, be they who they will.*

NATH. NOYES.

Before, R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 16.)

RICHARD WARD, testifies, that on the Lord's-day evening preceding the 5th day of March, about dusk, he went to see one Mr. Dines (who is a soldier in the 29th regiment, and lives near the barracks at New-Boston; when your deponent was there, he heard *one of the officers of the said 29th regiment say to the serjeants, Don't let any of your people go out unless there be eight or ten together.*

Before, R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 17.)

JANE USHER of lawful age testifies and says, that about nine o'clock in the morning of Monday the 5th day of March current, she being in the front chamber of the house of John Scollay, Esq; on Dock-square; from the window saw two persons in the habit of soldiers, one of whom being on horse back appeared to be an officer's servant: The person on the horse first spoke to the other, but what he said she is not able to say, tho' the window was open, and she not more than twenty feet distant; the other replied, *he hoped he should see blood enough spilt before morning.*

Before, R<sup>i</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 18.)

MATTHEW ADAMS testifies, that on Monday evening the 5th of March instant, he went to the house of corporal Pershal, of the 29th regiment, near Quaker-lane, where he saw the corporal and his wife, with one of the sifers of said regiment; when he had got what he went for, and was coming away, the corporal called him back, and desired him with great earnestness to go home to his master's house as soon as business was over, and not be abroad on any account that night in particular, for the soldiers were determined to be revenged on the ropewalk people; and that much mischief would be done; upon which the sifer (about 18 or 19 years of age) said *he hoped in God they would burn the town down;* on this he left the house, and the said corporal called after him again, and begg'd he would mind what he had said to him, and further faith not.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 19.)

CALEB SWAN testifies, that the 5th of March, 1770, being at Mr. Sample's door, near the North battery, at the time of the bells ringing for fire, he heard a woman whom he knew to be the supposed wife of one Montgomery, a grenadier of the 29th regiment,



ment, say it was not fire; the town was too haughty and too proud; that *many of their arses would be laid low before the morning.*

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 20.)

MARGARET SWANSBOROUGH testifies, that a free woman, named Black Peg, who has kept much with the soldiers, on hearing the disturbance on Monday evening the 5th instant, said, *The soldiers were not to be trod upon by the inhabitants, but would know before morning, whether they or the inhabitants were to be masters.* Since which time, the said Black Peg has left the town, on her hearing what she had said before, was given to the committee of enquiry.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and BELCHER NOYES, Just. Peace.

(No. 21.)

ROBERT PIERPONT testifies, that between the hours of 7 and 8 on Monday evening the 5th current, two soldiers arm'd, one with a broad sword, the other with a club, passed him near the Hay-market, going towards the town-house, seeming in great haste. In a few minutes they returned and hallowed very loud, Colonel. Before the deponent reached Mr. West's house, where he was going, they passed him again, joined by another, with a blue surtout, who had a bayonet, with which he gave the deponent a back-handed stroke, apparently more to affront than hurt him. On complaint of this treatment, he said, *the deponent should soon hear more of it, and threatened him very hard,* and further saith not.

Before, R<sup>r</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 22.)

JOHN BROWN testifies, that coming homewards about nine o'clock on Monday evening the 5th current, he *fell in with* Nathaniel Bosworth, and walking slowly together, a little *to the southward* of Liberty-tree so called, they met a parcel of soldiers about six or seven in number, walking very fast into town, one of the foremost said, *damn you stand out of the way,* and struck the deponent a blow on the breast, which made him stagger and fall nearly to the ground, tho' he *had sheared out* of the way. The soldiers pressed along *cursing and damning,* towards the town-house, with naked bayonets in their hands.

Before, R<sup>r</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

*The following Deposition should have immediately preceded No. 5-*

(No. 23.)

SAMUEL BOSTWICK, testifies and says, that on Friday the 2d instant, between 10 and 11 o'clock in the forenoon, three soldiers of the 29th regiment, came up Mr. Gray's rope-walk, and William Green, one of the hands, spoke to one of them, saying, Soldier.

Soldier, will you work ? The soldier replied, Yes. Green said, then go and clean my f---t-house. The soldier swore by the Holy Ghost that he would have recompence, and tarried a good while swearing at Green, who took no further notice of him, and then went off, and soon after returned to the rope-walk with a party of thirty or forty soldiers, headed by a tall negro drummer, and challenged the ropemakers to come out. All hands then present, being about 13 or 14, turned out and beat them off, considerably bruised. And further saith not.

Before, R<sup>r</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 24.)

WILLIAM TYLER testifies, that on the evening of the 5th of March, a little after nine o'clock, coming up King-street, just before he got to the Custom-house, *he saw the centinel running after a boy, and immediately heard him cry out as tho' in great distress.* He asked the boy what was the matter, who told him *the centinel had struck him with his gun and bayonet*, because he asked Captain Goldfinch for some money that he owed him. The centinel said, that he should not use an officer ill in the street. Soon after the boy left the centinel and went away, and immediately 10 or 12 soldiers came running up Silby's-alley, crying out, where are your *Sons of Liberty?* and went from thence to Cornhill. He further testifies, that when the above complaint was made of the centinel's striking the barber's boy, there were *few people* in the street. *He saw but five or six about them, who immediately dispersed.* He then left King-street and went up to Corn-hill.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 25.)

HENRY BASS of lawful age testifies and says, that going from his house in Winter-street, on Monday evening the 5th of March, to see a friend in the neighbourhood of the Rev. Dr. Cooper's meeting-house ; that the bell was ringing for 9 o'clock when he came out of his house, and that he proceeded down the Main-street, and going near Draper's-alley, leading to Murray's barracks, thro' which he purposed to pass, heard some boys huzzaing, and imagines that there were *six or seven of them and not more* ; and presently after he saw 2 or 3 persons in said alley with weapons, but cannot positively say what they were.—Soon after several more came into the alley and made a sally out, and those that came out were soldiers, and thinks were all grenadiers, as they were stout men, and *were armed with large naked cutlasses ; they made at every body coming in their way, cutting and flashing ;* the said deponent very narrowly escaped receiving a cut from the foremost of them, who pursued him below Mr. Simpson's stone-shop, where he made a stand ; presently after, going up Cornhill he met an oyster man, who said to the deponent, *damn it, this is what I got by going up, and shewed the deponent a large cut he had received from one of the*

*soldiers with a cutlass over his right shoulder*; said deponent thinking it not safe but very dangerous for him to go through the alley, he returned home by the way of King-street through Royal Exchange-lane, and passed by the centinel at the corner of the Custom-house; and said deponent further says, that *he never saw fewer persons in King-street, considering the pleasantness of the evening, and verily believes there were not twelve persons between the Crown Coffee-house and the bottom of the Town-house*; he imagines it to be then about 15 or 20 minutes after 9; After said deponent got to the head of the Town-house, he met a great many persons who enquired of him about the affair; the said deponent told them there had been an affray by Murray's barracks, but that it was then over, and further this deponent saith not.

Before, R<sup>r</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 26.)

I WILLIAM RHODES, testify, that on Tuesday, March 6, 1770, the morning after the affair in King-street, some of the seamen belonging to the *Rose* man of war, lying in the harbour of Boston, came to my shop, and after my asking them if they had heard of the affair that happened, they answered me yes, and that *all their boats were sent on shore manned*, and that the master of the ship had kept them up all night, or the greatest part; I then asked them whether they were kept to their quarters, they answered no; I then asked whether they had loaded their guns, they likewise answered no, but that they had been filling powder; some time after, I enquired of these same people whether their people when they came on shore on Monday night 5th March, were armed, they told me that the only person that had any arms was their master, who came ashore in the barge, and that he had only a pair of pistols, and that when they had got on the wharf that the said master gave the pistols to the Coxswain of the barge, and further said not.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 27.)

MARY RUSSELL, declares, that John Brailsford, a private soldier of the 14th regiment, (when he was ordered with his company to the castle, in consequence of the murders committed by the soldiers on the evening of the 5th of March) coming to the deponent's house, *declared that their regiment was ordered to hold themselves in readiness and accordingly was ready that evening upon the inhabitants firing on the soldiery to come to the assistance of the soldiery*: on which the deponent asked him if he would have fired upon any of the inhabitants of this town, to which *he replied, yes, if I had orders*, but that if he saw Mr. Russell he would have fired wide of him—he also said its well there was no gun fir'd by the inhabitants, for had there been, we should have come to the soldiers assistance. And further said not.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 28.)



(No. 28.)

I BENJ. ANDREWS, being desired by the committee of enquiry to take ranges of the holes made by musquet balls in two houses near opposite to the custom-house, find that the bullet-hole in the entry door post of Mr. Payne's house, and which grazed the edge of the door before it entered the post where it lodged, two and a half inches deep, ranges just under the stool of the westernmost lower chamber window of the Custom-house.

And that the hole made by another musquet ball through the window shutter of the lower story of the same house, and lodged in the back wall of the shop, ranges about breast-high from the ground and between the second and third window from the west corner of the Custom-house.

And that the holes made in the shop of Warden and Vernon, thro' the outer shutter and back partition of the shop, ranged breast-high from the ground and with the westernmost side of the first window west of the greater door of the Custom-house.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and BELCHER NOYES, Just. Peace.

(No. 29.)

I ISAAC PARKER, testify, that being at Mr. Richard Salter's house on the evening of the fifth current, heard a great noise in the street, upon which I went to the entry door and saw a great number of soldiers in their jackets without sleeves, *having naked cutlasses in their hands*, flourishing them over their heads, one of whom assaulted me with a naked cutlass, aiming a stroke at my head, which I happily avoided by a sudden retreat in-doors.

Before RI. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 30.)

I BARTHOLOMEW KNEELAND of Boston, merchant, testify, that on Monday evening the 5th instant, (being at my lodgings) about fifteen minutes after nine of the clock, hearing a bell ring, which I supposed was for fire, went immediately to the front door, when *I saw a number of soldiers with broad swords and bayonets in the main street near the town pump, making a great noise*; one of the said soldiers, when nearly opposite to me, spake to me the following words, viz. *Damn you, what do you do there? get in*: To which I made no answer; *the same soldier immediately crossed the gutter, and coming up to me pointed his naked bayonet within six inches of my breast*; I told him to go along, and then I retired into the house. In about half an hour's time after the above, I heard a volley of small arms fired off in King-street; and upon enquiry was told that three men were killed and one wounded.

Before RI. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 31.)

JEREMIAH BELKNAP testifies, that on the first appearance of the affray in Cornhill on Monday evening the 5th instant, he ran to his door and heard Mr. William Merchant say, he had been  
struck

struck by a soldier, and presently saw eight or nine soldiers come out of Boylstone's ally into the street, *armed with clubs and cutlasses*. The deponent went out into the street and desired them to retire to their barracks, upon which one of them with a club in one hand and cutlafs in the other, with the latter made a stroke at the deponent; when finding there was no prospect of stopping them, the deponent ran to the main guard, and called for the officers of the guard. The reply was, there is no officer here. Several of the soldiers came out of the guard house, and the deponent told them if there was not a party sent down there would be bloodshed: Just as the deponent spoke these words he was attacked by two soldiers *with drawn cutlasses*, supposed of the party from Murray's barracks, *one at his breast and the other over his head*. One of the guards said, this is an officer, meaning the deponent, I believe a Constable; on which the two assailants retired and put up their cutlasses, and further faith not.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 32.)

I ROBERT POLLEY of lawful age, testify and declare, that on Monday evening the 5th instant, as I was going home observed about ten persons standing near Mr. Taylor's door, after standing there a small space of time I went with them towards Boylstone's alley opposite to Murray's barracks; we met in the alley about *eight or nine soldiers, some of whom were armed with drawn swords and cutlasses, one had a tongs, another a shovel, with which they assaulted us*, and gave us a great deal of abusive language, we then drove them back to the barracks with sticks only; we looked for stones or bricks but could find none, the ground being covered with snow: Some of the lads dispersed, and myself with a few others were returning peaceably home, when we met about *nine or ten other soldiers armed with a naked cutlass in one hand and a stick or bludgeon in the other*. One of them said, "*Where are the sons of bitches?*" *They struck at several persons in the street and went towards the head of the alley*. Two officers came and endeavoured to get them into the barracks. One of the lads proposed to ring the bell. The soldiers went thro' the alley, and the boys huzza'd and said they were gone thro' Royal Exchange-lane into King-street. Myself and some of the boys then went into King-street, I saw two or three snow-balls strike the side of the custom-house, near which a centinel stood. The centinel kept the boys off with his bayonet charged breast-high, *which he frequently pushed at them*. I then saw eight or nine soldiers with a leader come from the main guard towards the custom-house, where they drew up, three facing up the street and three fronting the street. *They kept continually striking and pushing with their bayonets at the people who pressed towards them, without offering any insult as I saw*. I then went down Royal Exchange-lane, when I was in the middle of the lane, I heard the discharge

discharge of a gun, which was immediately followed by about seven others.

Before R<sup>t</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 33)

SAMUEL ATWOOD of Welfleet, testifies, that a few minutes after nine of the clock on Monday evening last, lying on board a vessel in the town dock, he heard a noise and disturbance at the upper end of Dock Square, and going up he found the soldiers and inhabitants engaged in the narrow passages round Murray's barracks so called; the latter being mostly boys unarmed, dispersed, on which ten or twelve soldiers armed with drawn cutlasses, clubs and bayonets, bolted out of the alley into the square and met the deponent, who asked them if they intended to murder people? *They answered, yes, by God, root and branch, saying here is one of them;* with that one of them struck the deponent with a club, which was repeated by another: the deponent being unarm'd turned to go off, and he received a wound on the left shoulder, which reached the bone, disabled him, and gave him much pain. Having gone a few steps, the deponent met two officers, and asked them, Gentlemen, what is the matter? *They answered, you will see by and by;* and as he passed by Colonel Jackson's, he heard the cry, *Turn out the guards.*

Before R<sup>t</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 34.)

CAPTAIN JAMES KIRKWOOD testifies, that about nine of the clock in the evening of the fifth day of March, he was going by Murray's barracks, hearing a noise, stopt at Mr. Rhoads's door, opposite to said barracks, where said Rhoads was standing, and stood some time, and saw the soldiers coming out of the yard from the barracks, armed with cutlasses and bayonets, and rushing thro' Boylstone's-alley into Corn-hill. Two officers, viz. Lieuts. Minchin and Dickson came out of the mess-house and said to the soldiers, *my lads come into the barrack and don't hurt the inhabitants, and then retir'd into the mess-house.* Soon after they came to the door again, and found the soldiers in the yard; and directly upon it, *Ensign Mall* came to the gate of the barrack yard, and said to the soldiers, *turn out, and I will stand by you! this he repeated frequently, adding, kill them! stick them! knock them down, run your bayonets thro' them, with a great deal of language of like import.* Upon which a great number of soldiers came out of the barracks, with naked cutlasses, headed by said Mall, and went thro' the aforesaid alley, some officers came and got the soldiers into their barracks; and that Mall with his sword or cutlass drawn in his hand, as often had them out again; but they were at last drove into their barracks by the aforesaid Minchin and Dickson.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 35.)



(No. 35.)

MATTHIAS KING testifies, that in the evening of the fifth day of March instant, about nine of the clock, standing at his own door, a soldier came up almost to him and Mr. Bartholomew Kneeland; and they had but just time to shut the door upon him, otherwise he is well assured they must have fell victims to his cruelty: He afterwards saw one of the guards kneel and present his piece with a bayonet fixed, and heard him swear he would fire upon a parcel of boys who were then in the street, but he did not. He further declares, that when the body of troops was drawn up before the guard-house, he heard *an officer say to another, that this was fine work, and just what he wanted.*

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 36.)

BARTHOLOMEW BROADERS testifies, that about eight o'clock on Monday evening the 5th of March, he went down King-street and met twelve of the Town's people with clubs, who said that they had been attacked by the soldiers; that soon after Mr. Green's maid and his daughter asked him to go to the apothecary's, and they with the *deponent* in going, met his fellow-apprentice, and they went and stood upon the custom-house steps, and Mr. Hammond Green came out, saying, come in girls; then *the deponent and his fellow-apprentice*, by the maid's invitation, *went in also*—Soon after Sawny Irving, so called, *came in* as he thought without a hat, seemed a little angry, and he thinks asked for a candle (the maid has since told him he did ask for one) then he went thro' the room along with Hammond Green, the latter returned into the kitchen, then he left the house and went home; after which the deponent came down King-street, and went thro' Quaker-lane, and coming up the lane again, saw the centinel at the custom-house leave his post and come into the middle of the street, and say to the deponent's fellow-apprentice, who he thought had said something of an officer's not paying his debts, let me see your face; the boy answered, I am not ashamed to shew my face; immediately upon which the centinel fetched a sweeping stroke with his gun upon the side of his head, which made him reel and stagger about, and cry much. The deponent asked what he was struck for, he answered, for nothing. He then asked the centinel what he meant by thus abusing the people. He replied, damn your blood, if you do not get out of the way, I will give you something; he then fixed his bayonet, and push'd at them, and they both run—then one Richard Ward, another fellow-apprentice, asked the one struck, what it was for, and endeavoured to get his stick to strike the centinel, but he told him not, and came away; then he heard a huzza or two, and as he got up Silsby's alley, up came a number of grenadiers, as he thought about ten, with clubs, cutlasses, and bayonets, crying out, where are the damn'd Yankeys. He reply'd, what is the matter—they

answer'd, we will let you know.—He then run into his master's entry, and immediately after, heard the bells ring, and the same party with a serjeant at their head, came running by, knocking down and slashing all the town's people they met with.—He then went down to King-street, and heard the people talking of the abuse his fellow-apprentices had received from the centinel, but saw no insult offered, the people being in the middle of the street.—One came up with a cane, appeared a gentleman, and spoke to the centinel, and then went away; then the centinel went up the steps of the custom-house and pointed his gun;—then he took down his gun and loaded it, while he was loading, saw no abuse offered him, or any danger he was in. He then went up Silsby's alley, and when he got to Mrs. Eustace's shop, heard a gun go off, and afterwards several others in a short space of time after one another. Soon after he was told that three men were killed. The deponent further saith, that on the night aforesaid, the snow was deep, and that when the centry called for the main guard, there were not above 10 or 20 people near the custom-house.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 37.)

DANIEL CALFE, testifies, that on the evening of the fifth current, hearing the bells ring, which he took for fire, he went out into King-street, and seeing a number of people (*about one hundred*) he went up to the custom-house, where were posted about a dozen soldiers with an officer. That this deponent *heard said officer order the soldiers to fire, and gave the second word to fire before they fired*; and upon the officers ordering the soldiers to fire the second time this deponent ran off about thirty feet distance, when turning about, he saw one Caldwell fall, and likewise a molatto man.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 38.)

I SAMUEL CONDON, testify, that on the night of the 5th instant March, being on the long wharff, between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock, and hearing the bells ring as for fire, I ran up Kingstreet, on my coming nigh the town-houte, I saw a number of people, about 30 or 40, *chiefly consisting of boys and lads*, who proceeded down said street opposite the Custom-house; the centinel on their approach, placed himself on the custom-house steps, and charged his musket and presented the same against the body of the people *who offered him no insult or violence*, in a few minutes after, a party came down from the main guard, consisting of about eight soldiers with their guns and bayonets in a charged position, headed by an officer, and posted themselves by the west corner of the Custom-house, round the centry box in a half circle; at this time I stood near the door of the royal exchange tavern, but apprehending danger as the soldiers stood with their muskets and bayonets in a charged or presented position, moved from thence

thence down said royal exchange-lane, and stood nigh the west end of the Custom-house, during this interim *I saw no violence offered the soldiers*, in a few minutes after having placed myself as afore-said, a musket was fired by the soldier who stood next the corner, in a few seconds after, another was fired, and so in succession till the whole was discharged, to the number of 8 or thereabouts; while the muskets where discharging I walked down the lane, and when the firing ceased, I turned and went up to the head of the lane, when I saw the people carrying off one dead person, and two more laying lifeless on the ground about two muskets length from the said soldiers, inhumanly murdered by them, the blood then running from them in abundance; a person asked the soldier who fired first, the reason for his so doing, the soldier answered, *damn your bloods you boogers, I would kill a thousand of you!* the soldiers were then charging their muskets again in order for a second discharge in case any insult had been offered them.

Before, JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

( 39. )

I NATHANIEL FOSDICK, testify, that on the night of the fifth instant, betwixt the hours of nine and ten o'clock, hearing the bells ring for fire, I ran towards the town-house, where I saw the people running down Kingstreet, I followed, after I had got into Kingstreet I made a halt, as I stopt I was pushed behind, I turned round and saw some soldiers with their bayonets charged, which came against me. I asked them if this was the fire that is cry'd; they made no answer. I asked them what they meant by coming on me in that manner; their answer was, *Damn you, stand out of our way.* I told them, I would not move for no man under the heavens. Therefore they passed me, some on my right and some on my left. I followed, they went to the centry-box, and faced round and formed in a half-circle. I saw a number of people about twenty yards from the centry-box. I spoke out and desired that no disturbance might be betwixt the inhabitants and the soldiers, for if the soldiers were in fault, there was their officer, and he could settle the affair in one minute; then I spoke to two men to speak to the officer; two or three advanced towards the officer. I heard some words pass, what they were I know not, I turned round and spoke to the people to step off and let them that went to the officer settle the dispute, the people standing still, *I turned towards the officer and see him fall into the regular circle, then I heard the word FIRE*, on my left one gun was fired off by a soldier on their right. Upon which I rushed in, then seeing the first soldier that fired run at some persons and fall upon the ground, I hallowed to take his gun from him, then *I received three pushes by their bayonets, two in my left arm and one in my breast, that at my breast I struck off with a stick, and the gun went off instantly.* Then I drew back; and finding one dead, as I thought, on my left and one on my right, I run over to quaker-lane, where I saw a number of



of people, desired them to step out and keep the soldiers from getting off; from thence I went over to the other side the street, to the lane near the town watch-house, where I desired the people to step out, and not to let the soldiers get off, for I would go home and get my gun and bring a party against them, which I did, but meeting some of the inhabitants returning, they told me the soldiers were gone off and affairs would be settled to-morrow, on that I went home.

Before R<sup>r</sup>. DANA, and SAM. PEMBERTON, Just. Peace.

(No. 40.)

JOSEPH HOOTON, jun. testifies, that, between 9 and 10 o'clock the deponent came into Kingstreet and stood about the middle of the street, or nearer the custom-house, in the direction of Quaker and Royal Exchange lanes, and saw about eight or ten soldiers drawn up near the custom-house, and an officer which he since understands was *Capt. Preston*, between the soldiers and the custom-house. There was much noise and huzzaing among the boys and people, and some of the boys the deponent observed drew near to the soldiers. In this hurry and confusion the deponent heard many ask each other whether they thought they would fire? and it was generally concluded they would not. But in about five minutes after the deponent first stood there, he *heard the officer give the word FIRE*, they not then firing, *he again said FIRE*, which they still disobeying, *he said with a much higher voice, DAMN YOU FIRE, BE THE CONSEQUENCE WHAT IT WILL! Soon after this one of the guns went off—in a few seconds another, and so on, till six or seven were discharged.* Near the deponent's left hand dropt a man, which he since learns was Mr. James Caldwell, on which he left the place, and further said not.

Before me, EDM. QUINCY, Just. Peace.

(No. 41.)

I RICHARD PALMES of Boston, testify, that between the hours of nine and ten o'clock of the 5th instant, I heard one of the bells ring which I suppose was occasioned by fire, and enquiring where the fire was, was answered that *the soldiers were abusing the inhabitants*; I asked where, was first answered at Murray's barracks, I went there and spoke to some officers that were standing at the door, I told them I was surprized they suffered the soldiers to go out of the barrack after eight o'clock; I was answered by one of the officers, pray do you mean to teach us our duty; I answered I did not, only to remind them of it; one of them said you see that the soldiers are all in their barracks, and why do not you go to your homes; Mr. James Lamb and I said, Gentlemen let us go home, and were answered by some, home, home; accordingly I asked Mr. William Hickling if he was going home, he said he was, I walked with him as far as the post-office, upon my stopping to talk with two or three people, Mr. Hickling left me;

me ; I then saw Mr. Pool Spear going towards the town-house, he asked me if I was going home, I told him I was ; I asked him where he was going that way, he said he was going to his brother David's. But when I got to the town-pump, we were told there was a rumpus at the custom-house door ; Mr. Spear said to me you had better not go, I told him I would go and try to make peace ; I immediately went there and saw Capt. Preston at the head of six or eight soldiers in a circular form, with guns breast high and bayonets fixed ; the said Captain stood almost to the end of their guns. I went immediately to Capt. Preston (as soon as Mr. Bliss had left him) and asked him if their guns were loaded, his answer was they are loaded with powder and ball ; I then said to him I hope you do not intend they shall fire upon the inhabitants ; his reply was, by no means. When I was asking him these questions my left hand was on his right shoulder ; Mr. John Hickling had that instant taken his hand off my shoulder, and stepped to my left, then instantly I saw a piece of snow or ice fall among the soldiers, on which the soldier at the officer's right hand stepped back and *discharged his gun*, at the space of some seconds the soldier at his left *fired* next, and the others one after the other. After the first gun was fired, I heard the word *Fire* ; but who said it I know not ; after the first gun was fired the *said officer had full time to forbid the other soldiers not to fire, but I did not hear him speak to them at all* ; then turning myself to the left I saw one man dead, distant about six feet ; I having a stick in my hand made a stroke at the soldier who fired, and struck the gun out of his hand. I then made a stroke at the officer, my right foot slipped, that brought me on my knee, the blow falling short, he says I hit his arm ; when I was recovering myself from the fall I saw the soldier that fired the first gun endeavouring to *push me through with his bayonet*, on which I threw my stick at his head, the soldier starting back, gave me opportunity to jump from him into exchange-lane, or I must have been inevitably run thro' the body. I looked back and saw three persons laying on the ground, and perceiving a soldier stepping round the corner as I thought to shoot me, I ran down Exchange lane, and so up the next into King-street, and followed Mr. Gridley with several other persons with the body of Capt. Morton's apprentice up to the prison house, and saw he had a ball shot through his breast, at my return I found that the officer and soldiers were gone to the main guard. *To my best observation there were not seventy people in King-street at the time of their firing, and them very scattering*, but in a few minutes after the firing there were upwards of a thousand ; finding the soldiers were gone I went up to the main-guard and saw there the soldiers were formed into three divisions, the front division in the posture of platoon firing, and I expected they would fire. Hearing that his Honor the Lieutenant Governor was going to the Council-chamber, I went there, his Honor looking out of the door desired the people to hear him speak ; he desired them to go home and he would enquire into the affair in  
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the morning, and that the law should take its course, and I said, I will live and die by the law. A gentleman desired his Honor to order the soldiers to their barracks, he answered it was not in his power, and that he had no command over the troops, and that it lay with Col. Dalrymple and not with him, but that he would send for him, which after some time he did; upon that a gentleman desired his Honor to look out of the window facing the main guard, to see the position the soldiers were in, *ready to fire on the inhabitants, which he did after a good deal of perswasion*, and called for Col. Carr and desired him to order the troops to their barracks in the same order they were in; accordingly they were ordered to shoulder their guns, and were marched off by some officers, and further saith not.

Before R<sup>t</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 42.)

I HENRY KNOX, testify, that between nine and ten o'clock P. M. the fifth instant, I saw the centry at the Custom-house charging his musket, and a number of young persons crossing from Royal Exchange to Quaker lane, seeing him load, stopt and asked him what he meant? and told others, the centry was going to fire. They then huzza'd and gathered round him at about ten feet distant. I then advancing went up to him, and *the centry snap'd his piece upon them*, Knox told him if he fired he died. The centry answered he did not care, or words to that purpose, *damning them* and saying, if they touched him, he would fire. The boys told him to fire and be damned: Immediately on this I returned to the rest of the people and endeavoured to keep every boy from going up, but finding it ineffectual went off thro' the crowd and saw a detachment of about eight or nine men and a corporal headed by *Capt. Preston*. I took Capt. Preston by the coat and told him for God's sake to take his men back again, for if they fired his life must answer for the consequence; he replied he was sensible of it, or knew what he was about, or words to that purpose; and seemed in great haste and much agitated. *While I was talking with Capt. Preston the soldiers of his detachment had attacked the people with their bayonets. There was not the least provocation given to Capt. Preston or his party, the backs of the people being towards them when they were attacked.* During the time of the attack I frequently heard the words *damn your blood and such like expressions*. When Capt. Preston saw his party engaged he directly left me, and went into the crowd and I departed: the deponent further says that *there was not present in King-street above seventy or eighty people at the extent*, according to his opinion.

Before R<sup>t</sup>. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No.



(No. 43.)

I CHARLOTTE BOURGATE, of lawful age, an indented servant to *Edward Manwaring, Esq;* being at my master's lodgings at Mr. Hudson's at the North-end, on the night of the horrid massacre in King-street, of the 5th instant; heard the bells ring, which I took to be for fire, (about half an hour before the bells rung, my master, with one Mr. Munro, said they would go to the *custom-house* and drink a glass of wine) then I went out, there being *nobody in the house that I knew of, but Mr. Hudson and wife*; then I went up to the *custom-house door* and knocked, when a young man, which I have since heard, was named Hammond Green, *let me in*, and locked the door, when I saw *my master and Mr. Munroe* come down stairs, and go into a room, when four or five men went up stairs pulling and hauling me after them, and said, my good boy come; when *I was carried into the chamber*, there was but *one light in the room*, and that *in the corner of the chamber*, when I saw a tall man loading a gun (then *I saw two guns in the room*) my master not being in the chamber, there was a number of gentlemen in the room: After the gun was loaded, the tall man gave it to me to fire, and said he *would kill me if I did not*; I told him *I would not*. He drawing a sword out of his cane, told me, if I did not fire it, he *would run it through my guts*. The man putting the gun out of the window, it being a little open, *I fired it side way up the street*; the tall man then *loaded the gun again*. *I heard the balls go down*. The man then laid it on the window again, and told me to fire it. I told him *I would not fire again*; he told me again, he *would run me through the guts if I did not*. Upon which I *fired the same way up the street*. After I *fired the second gun*, *I saw my master in the room*; he took a gun and pointed it out of the window; *I heard the gun go off*: Then a tall man came and clapp'd me on the shoulders above and below stairs, and said that's my good boy, I'll give you some money to-morrow. I said, I don't want any money. There being a light in the lower room, and the door being upon the jarr, I saw it was the tall man that clapp'd me on the shoulder; then the young man, *Hammond Green*, let me out of the door, there being *two or three people in the entry*, when I got out of the house, I saw a number of people in the streets. And I ran home as fast as I could, and set up all night in my master's kitchen. And further say, that *my master licked me the next night for telling Mrs. Waldron about his firing out of the Custom-house*. And for fear that I should be licked again, I did deny all that I said before Justice Quincy, which I am very sorry for. And further I say not.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 44.)

GILLAM BASS of lawful age, testifies and says, that being in King-street on Monday night the 5th instant, after nine of the clock,

clock, he saw about an hundred people gathered about the custom-house, and presently came a party of armed soldiers, with bayonets fixed, from the main guard, keeping on the south side of King-street, till they came nearly opposite the custom-house door, and then passed over, driving through the people in so rough a manner, that it appeared to the deponent that they intended to create a disturbance. They posted themselves between the custom-house door, and the west corner of it; and in a few minutes began to fire upon the people. Two or three of the flashes so high above the rest, that the deponent verily believes they must have come from the custom-house windows: And further saith, that he observed no violence to the soldiers at or before the firing, or to the custom-house, by the people.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 45.)

BENJAMIN FRIZEL, of Pownalborough, in the County of Lincoln, mariner, of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that in the evening of the 5th day of March current, going to Capt. Joseph Henshaw's, at the south part of Boston, in his way thither, under Liberty Tree, exactly at eight o'clock of said evening, he saw there eleven soldiers, and an officer met them, dres'd in a blue furtout; upon his speaking to them, they appeared very submissive, the officer ordering them to appear at their respective places at the time, and if they should see any of the inhabitants of the town, or any other people not belonging to them, with arms, clubs, or any other warlike weapons, more than two, being assembled together, to order them to stop, and ask them their business, and where they were going; if they refused to stop, or tell them their business or separate themselves, to stop them with their firelocks, and all that shall take their part: after giving these orders, the officer went off to the northward, and the soldiers southward; upon which the deponent proceeded about his business as far as Wheeler's point, and while there, the bell rang as usual for fire, and he with others ran to the town-house, two engines being there drawn, the men attending, left them on the west-end of the town-house, and going with others into King-street, were stop'd by two centinels of the main guard, and forbid to pass on their peril, and said if they did, they would fire on them; but one man, somewhat bolder than the rest, said, as the bells rang for fire, and all the inhabitants of the town had good right to pass thro' any street or lane of the town he should pass, and shouldering a stick he had in his hand, went forward, and was followed by the deponent and many others into King-street, the deponent taking his station at the west corner of the house now called the custom-house, and between the corner and the centry-box, where standing about two or three minutes, he saw six or seven soldiers come from the opposite side of the street, near to the head or opening of royal-exchange-lane, where they halted, and some of them

them spoke to the centry at the custom-house and faced about, in which posture they stood about two minutes, and in that time he heard *nothing said to them, or of them, by any of the inhabitants*; but heard two or three cheers given by the people, and two or three boatswain's *calls* piped, upon the last of which *the soldiers began their fire*, the deponent still standing at the corner of the custom-house, the first discharge being only one gun, the next of two guns, upon which the deponent thinks he saw a man stumble; the third discharge was of three guns, upon which he thinks he saw two men fall, and immediately after were discharged five guns, two of which were by soldiers on his right hand, the other three, as appear'd to the deponent, *were discharg'd from the balcony or the chamber-window of the custom-house*, the flashes appearing on the left hand, and higher than the right hand flashes appeared to be, and of which the deponent was very sensible, altho' his eyes were much turned to the soldiers who were all on his right hand; soon after this, the deponent saw five men on the ground, three whereof appeared to be dead, and the other two to be struggling; for the space of two minutes following, all action ceas'd; after which the general cry was, let us pick up the dead, and not let the soldiers have them, and thereupon the deponent assisted in supporting and steadying one who was wounded till a chair was brought to carry him off.

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.\*

(No. 46.)

JEREMIAH ALLEN, of lawful age, testifies and says, that in the evening of the fifth day of March current, being at about nine o'clock in the front chamber in the house occupied by Col. Ingersol in King-street, he heard some guns fired, which occasioned his going into the balcony of the said house.—That when he was in the said balcony, in company with Mr. William Molineux, jun. and John Simpson, he heard the discharge of four or five guns, the flashes of which appeared to be to the westward of the centry box; and immediately after, he the deponent heard two or three more guns, and saw the flashes thereof from out of the house now called *the Custom-house*, as they evidently appeared to him, and which he the said deponent at the same time declared to the aforesaid Molineux and Simpson, being then near him, saying to them, at the same time *pointing his hand toward the Custom-house, there they are out of the Custom-house*.—And further the deponent saith not.

Before R<sup>r</sup>: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No 47.)

JOSIAH SIMPSON testifieth, that on the evening of the 5th of March current, at about nine of the clock, he heard a bell ringing at the south part of the town, which caused him to leave his shop to make an enquiry.—Soon after, he heard that the soldiers



diers had rose upon the inhabitants; that when he had got as far as Faneuil-Hall, seeing a number of gentlemen standing together, the deponent made up to them, and asked them what the disturbance was; they answered him that two young men had been abused by the soldiers—but the soldiers had now returned to their barracks—he then proceeded with a number of others up Royal Exchange-lane: at the head of the lane some of the persons with him cried out, here is a soldier, and huzza'd; immediately the soldier who was centry near to the box before the custom-house, repaired to the *custom-house door*; at which, with the knocker, the soldier gave three very hard strokes; upon which *some person within side, opened the door and spoke to him remarkably short, and then shut it again.*—The soldier then directly loaded his gun, knocking the breech twice hard upon the stone steps: at the same time seven soldiers (as the deponent judges) with a commanding officer, came and cried clear the way, as he came along: then forming them into a half circle, ordered them to load: the deponent then made up as fast as he could to the officer, and said, for God's sake don't fire at the people, he made him no answer: then turning to the inhabitants, he the deponent expressed himself in the following manner: for God's sake don't trouble these men, for they are upon duty, and will fire: turning about to the soldiers, he saw them making up to the inhabitants with their bayonets fixed, (about ten feet off) directing them to stand off, attempting to drive them away with their bayonets: then he withdrew himself to the other side of the way, where seeing a man attempt to throw a club, he begg'd that he would not; adding that if he did, the soldiers would fire, and he did not: the deponent then standing by Warden and Vernon's shop on the south side of King-street with his back to the soldiers; immediately after heard the word *present*; at which word he stooped down.—A little space of time ensued, and then he heard the words, *damn you fire*; the sound of which words seemed to proceed from the length of all the soldiers, and very near to the centry box; upon *this order* he judged two guns were discharged, and immediately three more; one of the two last guns went about five or six inches over the deponent's back; after which he stood up, and another gun was discharged, which wounded one Robert Patterson in the arm, and the blood was sprinkled upon the deponent's hand and waistcoat; after the firing, the deponent saw four persons drop: then looking towards the soldiers, the deponent saw them making *towards the inhabitants with their fix'd bayonets*; upon which he retired down Quaker-lane, and went round into the main street homewards, where he had met a number of people going up Royal Exchange-lane—from thence he retired home.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

The deponent further saith, *that he is satisfied there was not more than seventy or eighty people in King-street who offered no violence to the soldiers or to any other persons, nor threatened any.*

(No. 48.)

GEORGE COSTER, of the Bay of Bulls, in the island of Newfoundland, Mariner, of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that being in Boston, about nine of the clock, in the evening of the 5th day of March current, he the deponent was standing in King-street, near the middle of said street, and while there standing, among a large number of other people, in about 5 or 6 minutes after he stopt, he heard the word of command given to the soldiers, *fire*, upon which one gun was fired, which did no execution, as the deponent observ'd. About half a minute after *two guns*, one of which killed one Samuel Gray, a rope-maker, the other a molatto man, between which two men, the deponent stood, after this deponent heard the discharge of four or five guns more, by the soldiers; immediately after which the deponent heard the discharge of two guns or pistols from an open window of the middle story of the Custom-house, near to the place where the centry-box was placed, and being but a small distance from the window, he heard the people from within speak and laugh, and soon after he saw the casement lower'd down; after which the deponent assisted others in carrying off one of the corps.

Before R<sup>i</sup> : DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 49.)

SAMUEL DROWNE of Boston, testifieth, that about nine of the clock, of the evening of the 5th day of March current, standing at his own door in Cornhill, saw about 14 or 15 soldiers of the 29th regiment, who came from Murray's barrack, some of whom were armed with *naked cutlasses, swords or bayonets, others with clubs, fire shovels or tongs*, and came upon the inhabitants of the town, when standing or walking in Cornhill, and abused some and violently assaulted others as they met them, most of whom were without so much as a stick in their hands to defend themselves, as the deponent very clearly could discern, it being moon-light, and himself being one of the assaulted persons—All or most of the said soldiers he saw go into King-street, and there followed them, and soon discovered them to be *quarrelling and fighting with the people* whom they saw there, which the deponent thinks were not more than a dozen, when the soldiers came there first, armed as aforesaid. Of those dozen people, the most of them were gentlemen, standing together a little below the town-house upon the exchange. At the appearance of those soldiers so arm'd, the most of the twelve persons went off, some of them being assaulted.—After which the said soldiers were observ'd by the deponent, to go towards the main-guard, from whence were at the same time issuing and coming into King-street, five soldiers of said guard, and a corporal, arm'd with a firelocks, who called out to the fore-mention'd soldiers, arm'd with cutlasses, &c. and said to them go away, on which they dispers'd and went out of King-street, some one way, and some another—by this time were collected together in King-street,

about

about two hundred people, and then the deponent stood upon the steps of the exchange tavern, being the next house to the custom-house; and soon after saw Capt. Preston, whom we well knew, with a number of soldiers arm'd with firelocks drawn up near the west corner of the custom-house; and at that instant the deponent thinks so great a part of the people were dispers'd at the sight of the armed soldiers, as that not more than twenty or thirty remained in King-street;\* those who did remain, being mostly sailors and other persons meanly dress'd, call'd out to the arm'd soldiers and dared them to fire, upon which the deponent heard Capt. Preston say to the soldiers, *Damn your bloods! why don't you fire?* the soldiers not regarding those words of their captain, he immediatly said FIRE. Upon which they fired irregularly, pointing their guns variously in a part of a circle as they stood: during the time of the soldiers firing, the deponent saw the flashes of two guns fired from the custom-house, one of which was out of a window of the chamber, westward of the balcony, and the other from the balcony, the gun which he clearly discerned being pointed thro' the ballisters, and the person who held the gun in a stooping posture, withdraw himself into the house, having a handkerchief or some kind of cloth over his face. After this the deponent assisted in carrying off the dead and wounded, as soon as the soldiers would permit the people so to do, for at first they were cruel enough to obstruct the carrying them off.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 50.)

CATO, a Negro Man, servant to Tuthil Hubbard, Esq; testifies, that on Monday evening, the 5th of March current, on the cry of fire, he ran into King-street, where he saw a number of people assembled before the custom-house; that he stood near the centry-box, and saw the soldiers fire on the people, who stood in the middle of said street, directly after which he saw two flashes of guns, one quick upon the other from the chamber window of the custom-house; and that after the firing was all over, while the people were carrying away the dead and wounded, he saw the custom-house door opened, and several soldiers (one of whom had a cut-lafs) go into the custom-house and shut the door after them, that before the soldiers fired he heard a voice saying, *damn you, why don't you fire,* but did not see who it was.

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 51.)

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\* Mr. Drown says there were collected together in King-street about two hundred persons, and that at the sight of the armed soldiers, they so far dispersed, as that not more than twenty or thirty remained in King-street.

This circumstance accounts for the diversity in some of the depositions, with regard to the number of persons in King-street about that time: such depositions probably referring to different moments.—



(No. 51.)

DANIEL USHER testifies, that coming into King-street, about half after nine o'clock on Monday evening the first current, he saw several persons, mostly young folks, gathered between the town-house and the coffee-house, some of whom were talking to the centinel at the commissioners or custom-house; after some time the boys at a distance began to throw light snow-balls at him, which he seemed much enraged at, and went on to the custom-house steps, where he appeared to have charged his gun, giving it a heavy stamp upon the door-step, as if to force down the lead, and then swore to the boys *if they came near him he would blow their brains out.* About ten minutes after this, the deponent saw *Capt. Preston leading seven or eight men from towards the town-house, and placed them between the custom-house door and the centinel box.* About four or five minutes after they were posted, the snow-balls now and then coming towards the soldiers, the Captain commanded them to fire. Upon this *one gun quickly went off,* and afterwards *he said FIRE BY ALL MEANS!* others succeeding, and the deponent being utterly unarm'd, to avoid further danger, went up round the town-house till the fray was over. And further saith not, Before RI: DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 52.)

I JOHN HICKLING testify, that on Monday the 5th day of March 1770, in the evening between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, I heard a noise and the cry of fire in King-street, and immediately proceeding to the place I saw eight or nine soldiers with fixed bayonets charged breast-high, standing in a circular manner at the corner of the custom-house, and an officer standing before them at the end of the bayonets between the soldiers and the inhabitants. *I saw but a few scattering people, supposed to be about thirty in the street before them at that time,* and therefore was at a loss for the reason of such an appearance; going up to the officer, I found a young man named Bliss, talking with him, I inquired his name of Bliss, who informed me that it was *Preston.* At that instant Mr. Richard Palmer came up and asked the officer if he intended to fire upon the people? he answered by no means; Palmer asked if the guns were loaded? Preston answered in the affirmative. Palmer further asked, with powder and ball? *Preston answered they were.* The soldiers during this conversation assumed different postures, *shoving their bayonets frequently at the people, one in particular pushing against my side, swore he would run me thro',* I laid hold of his bayonet, and told him, that no body was going to meddle with them. Not more than ten seconds after this, I saw something white, resembling a piece of snow or ice fall among the soldiers, which knock'd the end of a firelock to the ground. *At that instant the word fire was given,* but by whom, I know not; but concluded it did not come from the officer aforesaid, as I was within a yard of him, and must have heard him, had he spoke it,

*but am satisfied said Preston did not forbid them to fire, I instantly leap'd within the soldier's bayonet as I heard him cock his gun, which that moment went off, between Mr. Palmes and myself, I, thinking there was nothing but powder fired, stood still, till upon the other side of Mr. Palmes and close to him, I saw another gun fired, and the man since called Attucks fall. I then withdrew about two or three yards, and turning, saw Mr. Palmes upon his knee, and the soldiers pushing at him with their bayonets. During this the rest of the guns were fired, one after another, when I saw two men fall, I ran to one, and seeing the blood gush out of his head, tho' just expiring, I felt for the wound, and found a hole as big as my hand. This I have since learned, was Mr. Gray. I then went to Attucks, and found him gasping, pulled his head out of the gutter, and left him; I returned to the soldiers, and asked them what they thought of themselves and whether they did not deserve to be cut to pieces, to lay men wallowing in their blood in such a manner, they answer'd, God damn them, they should have stood out of our way. The soldiers were then loading their muskets, and told me upon my peril not to come any nearer to them. I further declare I heard no other affront given them, than the buzzing and whistling of boys in the street.*

Before R1: DANA, and JOHN LILL, Just. Peac.

(No. 53.)

MARY GARDNER, living in Atkinson-street, testifies, that on Monday evening the fifth day of March current, and before the guns fired in King-street, there were a number of soldiers assembled from Green's barrack towards the street and opposite her gate, that they stood very still until the guns were fired in King-street, then they clapped their hands and gave a cheer, saying, *this is all that we want*, they then ran to their barrack and came out again in a few minutes, all with their arms, and ran towards King-street.

Before R1. DANA, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

(No. 54.)

I THOMAS GREENWOOD, testify, that on Monday the 5th instant, I was alarmed by the bells ringing and people's crying fire, upon which I turned out and helped Mr. Wheeler's engine as far as the Old South meeting house, we met several people who told us it was not fire, but it was the *soldiers and inhabitants, fighting in King-street and desired them to go back and and get their arms*, upon hearing this, I hastened down to King-street and coming near the west door of the town-house, I fell in with a number of people, most of them that I saw had sticks and clubs in their hands and huzza'd, after that we went round the north side of the town-house, and stood between the east steps of the town-house and whipping-post, I heard a number of people speaking, and *one person in particular spoke to the two centinels, who were walking up and down the street*

street on the side of the town-house, using these words \*, *come out and fight us if you dare*, calling them *Damned bloody-back rascals and scoundrels to come out and fight them*, if they dared, we are enough for you now, *but I do not know whether the above person belonged to the town*; I looked round and saw about twenty people before the custom-house door, upon which I went down to the custom-house, I then heard two or three persons use these words, one after another, † *I wish I could get into the Custom-house, I would make the money circulate amongst us*, after that I went up to the custom-house door and saw 2 or 3 snow balls fall on the flat stones near the steps of the door; I knocked and Mr. Hammond Green came to the door, while I was speaking to the centry, who stood upon the steps, I told him not to let any body come into the door and no person offered to come in; the said Green asked who was there, I answered 'tis Thomas, let me in Hammond, when I got in, the said Green said to me if I wanted to see any thing, go up stairs, I went into the back room and got the key of the little drawing-room, being the lower west corner chamber, and went up stairs, and Elizabeth Avery, Mary Rogers and Ann Green followed me into the room; we all looked thro' the glass, I saw some persons standing by the centry-box striking with sticks, *but did not see them hit any body, tho' a number of persons were close by them*; I told the women above mentioned that I would not stay, for I was afraid that the house would be pulled down, there being about *forty or fifty persons consisting of men and boys*; I saw no person

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\* It may not be improper to remark here, that the deponent, Thomas Greenwood, is a hired servant to the Commissioners, on whom he is altogether dependent, and when before the Justices, he was several times detected in plain falsehoods; particularly in swearing first that the number of persons who called the soldiers "bloody back rascals," &c. was nine, then seven, and finally but one, as it now stands; and through the whole of his examination he was so inconsistent and so frequently contradicted himself, that all present were convinced no credit ought to be given to his deposition, for which reason it would not have been inserted had it not been known that a deposition was taken relating to this affair, from this Greenwood, by Justice Murray, and carried home by Mr. Robinson.

† As this deponent is the only person out of a great number of witnesses examined, who heard any mention made of the Custom-house, and as it is very uncommon for several people to repeat exactly the same words upon such occasions (for the deponent insisted that the identical words were used by each person) considering the character and connections of the deponent, and his own express declaration in this affidavit, that he saw no person attempt even to break a square of glass or to get into the Custom-house, it may very justly be doubted whether such words were used by



*son throw any stones or attempt to break even a square of glass, or get into the house (the next morning I found there was not a pane of glass broke in the said house.)* Afterwards, I went down stairs and met Hammond Green in the middle room; he asked me where I was going, I told him, I was going out, upon which I went into the kitchen and took my hat and went into the yard, got upon the wood pile and went to the fence; John Green being by the gate asked me to open the gate and let him in, I told him I would not open the gate for any body, one person passing by, said to me, heave over some shalales, I jumped off the fence into royal exchange-lane, went down the lane with John Green, and went round by the post-office to the main-guard; I told one of the soldiers if they did not go down to the centry at the Custom-house, \* *I was afraid they would hurt him, tho' I had not seen any person insult him, somebody said they were gone; I stood with John Green near the guard-house, saw the guns go off and heard the report; afterwards I heard a person say, which I took to be a soldier, that's right, damn them, kill them all, they have no business there, and from thence I went to the house of Mr. Burch, one of the Commissioners, where I saw Mr. Burch and wife, Mr. Paxton another Commissioner, and Mr. Reeves secretary to the Board; one of the Commissioners asked me what was the matter, I told him the soldiers had fired upon the inhabitants and had killed two or three, and wounded some more, upon which Mr. Reeves said, God bless my soul! and then went into the other room. I left Mr. Burch's house and went to the barracks at Wheelwright's Wharf, and staid there all night; I heard several soldiers say they wished they were let out, for if they were, there should not be many people alive in the morning; the whole of the 14th regiment being under arms, and the piquet guard went to the main guard house about 12 o'clock that night.*

Before JOHN RUDDOCK, and JOHN HILL, Just. Peace.

BOSTON, the 22d, March, 1770.

WE the subscribers, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Suffolk (one being of the Quorum) hereby certify, that Col. William Dalrymple, chief commander of the soldiers in Boston, William Sheaffe, Esq; deputy collector of the customs, and Bartholomew Green, head of the family in the Custom-house in Boston, were duly notified to attend the captions of the affidavits *in perpetuam*, &c. touching the Massacre by the soldiers in Boston, taken before us on the 16th, 17th, and 19th days of

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\* It seems very difficult, according to Greenwood's account, to form even a conjecture of the reason of his fears, which he expressed for the centry, when in the same breath he declares that he had not seen any person insult him.—But probably the true motives of his application to the main-guard were not of a nature to be made public.

of March current; and that the said William Sheaffe and Bartholomew Green attended accordingly, on the 16th of March, and cross-examined as many of the deponents as they thought fit and as long as they pleased, but declined giving any further attendance.

RI. DANA.

RI. DANA,  
JOHN HILL.

Suffolk, H.

*Boston, March 30, 1770.*

WE do hereby Certify, That the several Copies contained in the annexed printed Collection of Affidavits, taken before us *in perpetuum*, &c. have been carefully compared by us with the Originals, and agree therewith.

RI. DANA. JOHN TUDOR.  
JOHN HILL. BELCHER NOYES.  
SAM. PEMBERTON. And,  
JOHN RUDDOCK, EDM. QUINCY.  
*Justices of the Peace, and of the Quorum.*

(SEAL.)

*By the Honorable THOMAS HUTCHINSON, Esq;  
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief, in  
and over his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts-  
Bay in New-England.*

**T. Hutchinson.**

**I** Do hereby Certify that *Richard Dana* and *John Ruddock*, Esqrs. are two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace and of the Quorum for the County of *Suffolk*, within the aforesaid Province; and that *John Hill*, *Edmund Quincy*, *Belcher Noyes*, *John Tudor* and *Samuel Pemberton*, Esquires, are Justices of the Peace for the same County, and that full Faith and Credit is and ought to be given to their several Acts and Attestations (as on the annexed Paper) both in Court and without.

In Testimony whereof I have caused the Public Seal of the Province of *Massachusetts-Bay* abovesaid to be hereunto affixed. Dated at *Boston* the Thirtieth Day of *March* 1770. In the tenth Year of his Majesty's Reign.

By his Honor's Command,  
JOHN COTTON, D. Secretary.

☞ Three original Certificates of the foregoing Tenor, with the Province Seal affixed to them, are signed by the Lieutenant Governor, and annexed to three printed Copies of this Pamphlet.

Two of them will be sent to London for the the Satisfaction of such Gentlemen in England as incline to see the Originals : viz. One of them to WILLIAM BOLLAN, Esq; and the other to DENNIS DE BERTDT, Esq;—The third remains with the Committee.

T H E E N D.